



Travel the
shifting sands

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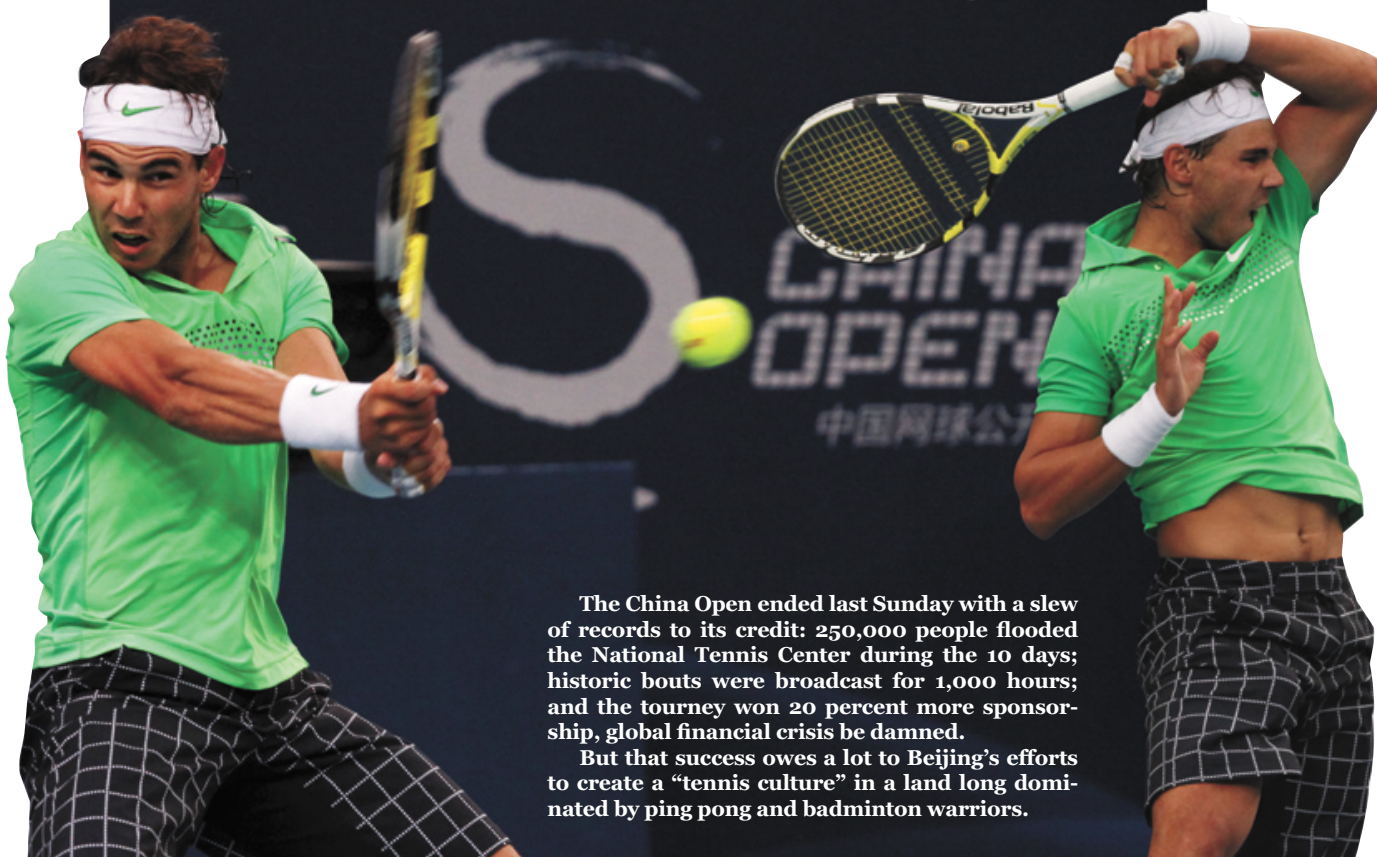
Wear something
one-of-a-kind

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China Open comes of age

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The China Open ended last Sunday with a slew of records to its credit: 250,000 people flooded the National Tennis Center during the 10 days; historic bouts were broadcast for 1,000 hours; and the tourney won 20 percent more sponsorship, global financial crisis be damned.

But that success owes a lot to Beijing's efforts to create a "tennis culture" in a land long dominated by ping pong and badminton warriors.

Media meet
to discuss
openness, 'net

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Gov bumps
cap to draw
investors

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Middleman
goes way of
the dinosaur

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Educator finds
dream in
Haidian kids

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CBD expands east this year

By Zhao Hongyi

The city is expanding its Central Business District (CBD) east for another 3 square kilometers. Construction will start at the end of this year, according to sources from the 10th Beijing International Business Festival held over the weekend in Beijing.

The expansion has been under discussion for years, as the existing 4-square-kilometer district is not even close to meeting the demand for offices and apartments. After years of debate about environmentally-friendly design, the construction is starting, and will last six to eight years.

When complete, the CBD will extend to East Fourth Ring Road. Total investment is expected to be 15 billion yuan and will create 100,000 new jobs.

"Luxury offices and apartments will occupy half of the total construction in the new area," said Zhang Liwen, a spokesman for the Beijing CBD Administrative Committee.

"Many plots in the new area have been sold to multinationals which will set up their own business towers," Zhang said. "We'll also build a number of schools and hospitals for the residential communities."

Insiders predict there will be three skyscrapers per block, each more than 300 meters tall.

Seven international companies have submitted designs for the expansion, and Zhang's committee displayed the designs this week to seek public comment. The results will be used to award the final contract, and are due this weekend.

Beijing's CBD began construction in 1998 and has drawn 130 multinationals of the Fortune 500, 203 overseas financial agencies and 36 regional headquarters.

An area of 3.97 square kilometers will be kept for future development, according to the initiative. This area runs along the north of the expanded CBD to the Agricultural Exhibition Center.

Many festival visitors were enthusiastic about the designs, but organizers said each design requires more changes before construction can begin.

Wang Junqing, a visitor from one of the nearby residential communities, said he was more conscious about the prices of apartments in the area.

"Who would have imagined an area for heavy industry 20 years ago would become CBD today?" he said. Wang retired from a liquefied gas factory in the area when it was moved out of Beijing five years ago.



CBD will expand 3 square kilometers to East Fourth Ring Road.

Photo by Tom Wang

Designs of unique strength

The seven designs for the new CBD focus on two elements: smooth transportation and low carbon emission, said Li Guohong, deputy director of CBD Administration Committee.

Most are built to be reached by public transportation, bicycle and subway. The buildings themselves will tap solar and wind power, and use recyclable materials, with some areas zoned as green parks.

Li did not name any of the designers to keep the competition fair, but did say each design was unique to its developer.

Design 1: Trolley buses

This design includes spare lanes for bicycles and three lines for trolley buses. It has a central plaza with a 450-meter-high skyscraper as its landmark. The design includes several parks and leisure fields, including a culture park, family park, main park and Tonghui River Park.

Design 2: Low-speed magnetic lines

This design keeps the chimneys of the abandoned factories and integrates the industrial remains into a 668-meter-high tower which uses solar and wind power collectors and transformers. At 559 meters, the tower would have the world's highest restaurant. Low-speed magnetic public transportation lines are also another eye-catcher.

Design 3: Solar to cut emissions

This design considers the location of all building-in the area, placing them to receive as much sunlight as possible. It is expected to reduce energy consumption by 40 to 50 percent and reduce carbon-dioxide emissions by 50 percent.

Design 4: Transportation first

This design relies on public transportation for 70 percent of its traffic, encourages people to walk and limit the use of private vehicles to less than 15 percent during rush hour. The design also proposes placing a media park beside the *People's Daily*.

Design 5: Green belt runs through it

This design proposes running a large green belt through the area. It would be a public place for people to relax and would

connect all sides and corners of the area. The design also recommends using new materials on the walls of all buildings to collect and store solar energy.

Design 6: Color-coded blocks

This design also highlights public transportation, especially trolley trains, to connect office buildings and residential communities. It would use colors to clarify the various functional blocks. It also suggests a theme park for environmental protection and alternative energy be built on the industrial ruins.

Design 7: Aerial transport

This design suggests using cable cars to transport people and tourists. It would also build high-speed trains and trolleys in the area, as well as place a ferry on the Tonghui River for tours.

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Migrant worker succeeds in building sub



Tao Xiangli dives in his home-made sub for 5 minutes before having to surface.

Photo by John Wang

By Zhang Dongya

A migrant worker's submarine made from scrap material underwent its first submersion test in the capital last Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, the amateur submariner Tao Xiangli took his home-made sub into the reservoir in Fangshan District. It submerged for five minutes before surfacing.

"The only problem was it made my ears hurt," the submariner said after disembarking.

Tao, 34, from Fuyang, Anhui Province, has been in the capital for 10 years as a migrant worker. His 1.6-tonne vessel was constructed from metal barrels and improvised

parts. Most were acquired at secondhand markets, especially the batteries, motors, bulbs, sensors and switches.

The submarine is cramped and has room for only one person, but it features pressure meters, monitoring cameras, an oxygen supply and headlights.

"Although simple, it works well enough to serve as a basic submarine. At least, it allows the passenger to see clearly underwater," Tao says it is safe up to a maximum depth of 10 meters.

The submarine is the culmination of two years of research and experimenting. He tried to dive in

it last year and failed: the equipment sank and he was rescued by a local villager. But harder than risking his life was finding the money for his adventure.

The sub cost 30,000 yuan to complete: 10,000 of that was borrowed at a 1,000-yuan-per-month interest rate. "I had to find inexpensive replacements for next to nothing," he said.

"My friends and relatives think I'm crazy. They think it's unrealistic, because even experts haven't managed to make a submarine despite all the money our country throws at them. But I succeeded," he said. "I know I can do better

with more money."

Tao currently works in a karaoke bar as an audio technician. He has a fifth grade elementary education, "but a lot of creative ideas." He invents in his spare time, and now holds seven patents, including patents for head massaging and shoe polishing devices.

"I hope this effort will get the attention of someone who can back me and give me a helping hand," Tao said. He said he didn't bother to use a ruler to measure sizes, and no experts helped out with drafting the plans: the sub was built using intuition and "eyeballing it."

"My inventions, the sub

included, are just a way to show my talent. I'm really trying to promote myself," he said.

While he holds several patents and has been told to attend expos to seek investors, he says he cannot afford to pay the expo admission fees, which are usually thousands of yuan.

Since coming to Beijing in 1991, Tao has worked as construction laborer, run a restaurant and run a business for construction material.

He is now showing his submarine to interested people and media and working nights at the karaoke bar. He hopes his DIY submarine will bring him and his inventions new opportunities.

Jackpot winner revives fears the lottery is fixed

By Han Manman

A week has passed since one lucky gambler won the largest individual lottery jackpot in the history of the country.

The problem is he still has not claimed the prize.

The unidentified winner, who hails from Anyang City, Henan Province, spent 176 yuan to buy 88 lottery tickets for the China Welfare Lottery last Thursday.

The day's jackpot turned out to be an astronomical 359.9 million yuan. If claimed, he will take home more than three times as much money as the last record winner, a Gansu Province resident who won 113 million yuan in 2007.

The story has touched off a new round of lottery fever, and online polls are asking hypothetical winners what they would do with the prize money. The top answer has been "Buy a car and a house," followed by

"Travel the world" and "Make a charitable donation." Options such as investing and sharing the money with friends and family rank lower.

While many have been openly envious of the winner, netizens are suspicious of the report's authenticity and the lottery's fairness. Such suspicions are hardly groundless after a hacker was caught rigging Shenzhen lottery's database trying to award himself 33 million yuan in June.

"The lottery center should identify the jackpot winner and state how the tickets were sold, or at least disclose the winner's purchasing records so we can see if he picked the same set of numbers," Qian Zhen, a long-time lottery player, said. "Without such basic information, it's hard for us to believe he won fairly."

Qian's question rekindles a longstanding debate of the winner's privacy versus the public's

"right to know." Many netizens have appealed to the government to establish a special lottery regulator like the one which monitors the national banking industry.

Wang Xuehong, director of the Center for Lottery Studies at Beijing University, said the domestic lottery is immature. As an advisor who helped draft the current lottery law, which took effect in July, she said the law glosses over many problem areas.

The current law, rooted in the country's tradition of not showing off wealth, grants strong protection to the lottery winner.

Wang said the law need-to be clarified, such as the winner's privacy should not interfere in the public's ability to get the information necessary to ensure the lottery is held fairly and openly.

She said the public does not doubt there was a winner, but doubts the credibility of the lottery. The country has an urgent



Someone won Thursday's jackpot. The question is whether they won it fairly.

CFP Photo

need to set up an independent lottery regulatory commission to monitor the industry and restore public confidence.

Lottery tickets are sold on the mainland to raise money for government welfare services and

sports developments.

Three agencies control the lottery: the China Welfare Lottery Issuance Center, the China Sports Lottery Administration Center and the Ministry of Finance, which oversees them.

Curtains for 'media Olympics'

World media groups pledge to work together

Dozens of international media organizations agreed over the weekend to make concerted efforts to collaborate, achieve common development goals and provide accurate and transparent news to the public.

As many as 300 media representatives from 170 companies convened in Beijing last week for the World Media Summit to overcome the current challenges facing world media outlets in the fast-changing digital and multimedia era.

President Hu Jintao opened the inaugural, organized by Xinhua news agency. The theme of the three-day summit was "Cooperation, Action, Win-Win and Development."

"We note that the world is undergoing complicated and profound changes," said the joint statement issued by media representatives.

"We hope media organizations around the world will provide accurate, objective, impartial and fair coverage of the world's news events," it said.

President Hu said in his opening speech that the Chinese government will safeguard the rights and interests of news media from overseas.

"We will continue to make government affairs public, enhance information distribution, safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of foreign news organizations and reporters and facilitate foreign media coverage of China in accordance with China's laws and regulations," Hu said.

The summit attracted representatives from *The New York Times*, *International Herald Tribune*, *The Wall Street Journal*, AFP and NHK.



Representatives from overseas and Chinese media groups attended the World Media Summit to discuss global media's potential for cooperation and competition in the Internet era. IC Photo

Participant

Optimistic about the Chinese market

By Venus Lee

Still immersed in the joy of her first visit to Beijing, global editor-in-chief of Reader's Digest Peggy Northrop spoke highly of the World Media Summit and said she views China as a prosperous market for her magazine.

"It was really fascinating to meet journalists from all over the world, from all different platforms, including agencies, broadcasters, magazine people and, of course, Chinese colleagues, to consider the problem we all have in common: the challenge we all have from the Internet when we have become accustomed to making most of our revenue through print products," she said.

Besides comparing similar themes, Northrop said she saw how committed the government and world press agencies were to cooperation.

Northrop said she values the Chinese market as Reader's Digest's Chinese edition is very popular with the middle class and its consumption potential is robust. "We are committed to our business here," she said. "That fact is that we just launched our global Web site and we chose to do it in China first. I think it is a measure of how excited we are about the prospect of success in China."

In addition to keeping its traditional products, Reader's Digest

plans to introduce more to the Chinese market which will cover health, women, food and science.

Speaking about Reader's Digest's current financial reorganization after entering bankruptcy protection two months ago, Northrop said, "It is difficult for US people to understand that bankruptcy protection is not the same as going bankrupt, and the financial problem only affects our US business. It has nothing to do with our international businesses at all."

Northrop said US lenders have agreed to the Digest's reorganization plan, and its debt has been cut to \$50 million from a previous \$220 million.

Third eye

Country unveils its global media ambitions

China wants to expand its global media presence to reflect its increasing influence on the international stage.

The World Media Summit is a new symbol.

Stung by several high-profile public relations events last year, including the chaotic Olympic torch relay, the government has tasked two or three signature media groups with projecting the image of a powerful China abroad.

It has earmarked 45 billion yuan to fund the expansion of groups including Xinhua, state television CCTV and CRI radio, Hong Kong media reported.

Xinhua – which is planning to add to its 117 bureaus around the world, which report in eight languages – hopes to join the tight circle of international news agencies.

"We are in a restructuring phase – we've just opened a multimedia desk," Xinhua president Li Congjun said.

CCTV just launched an Arabic-language channel, reaching 300 million people in 22 countries, and is gearing up to start a Russian service. CRI, which already broadcasts in 43 languages, is also expanding its presence abroad.

China also wants to set up media conglomerates similar to News Corporation or Time Warner, which would have some private funding.

"As China moves from a domestic-oriented participant to an international industry leader, it will grow its own Time Warner," said Steve Marcopoto, president of TBS Asia Pacific, part of the Time Warner group. (Agencies)



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Higher limits for foreign investors

Country raises QFII cap to \$1 billion



Foreign investors can only invest in the Chinese mainland's A-shares through the QFII program. IC Photo

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) announced last weekend that it has raised the limit on purchases of local shares by foreign investors by 25 percent to \$1 billion (6.8 billion yuan).

The quota for share purchases by QFII (qualified foreign institutional investors) used to be \$800 million.

The administration said on its Web site that the easing of the rules was aimed at "attracting mid- and long-term investments." But the combined quota for all QFIIs remains unchanged at \$30 billion.

The revised rules allow a

single QFII to open different types of investment accounts, and gives it enhanced convenience in foreign exchange, redemption and other areas.

They also cut the lockup period for securities investments by foreign pension funds, insurance funds and mutual funds from one year to three months. For other funds, the lockup period of one year remains in place.

SAFE, however, said it will not allow QFIIs to transfer or sell quotas to others, and it may reduce a QFII's investment quota if it fails to effectively use it within two years of approval.

By Huang Daohen

To attract more foreign investors, the government over the weekend relaxed its rules on foreign investment in the country's domestic stock market.

Analyst

QFII reform to attract foreign capital

The move to relax restrictions on QFII reflects the government's growing desire to attract overseas capital as well as stabilize the domestic stock market, said Zhao Xiao, economics professor at the University of Science and Technology.

"The reform comes after we've seen how the performance of the country's stock market has been lagging behind its US and European counterparts since late July," Zhao said. "Signs show that international capital is flowing into mature economies due to their stronger-than-expected recovery."

Though the combined quotas for all QFIIs remain unchanged at \$30 billion and the new rules' impact on the broad market seems to be limited, upping individual QFII's investment quotas will bring opportunities to shares that QFIIs favor, Zhao said.

QFIIs appear to focus more on consumption, construction, utilities and financials, he said.

Most QFIIs are now brokers using funds they have raised to invest in China. "But funding channels for those brokers are not always stable," Zhao said. "Some might have to consider

the investment risk caused by market volatility."

QFII reforms were part of official measures to bolster the stock market, but Zhao suggested the long-term plan might be an eventual expansion of the total quota for QFIIs.

Zhao said the relaxation of restrictions also reflects the government's efforts to diversify QFII investments to stabilize the domestic stock market.

"But it will have more symbolic than real impact on the market because QFIIs' capital base is really too small," Zhao said.

QFII program

The QFII program is one the of government's measures to bolster the domestic stock market.

Previously, the country's two main stock markets in Shanghai and Shenzhen restricted foreign investment.

But in 2002, the China Securities Regulatory Commission and the People's Bank of China launched the QFII program

and allowed foreign investors to buy and sell yuan-denominated A-shares on the mainland.

It even allowed QFII funds to invest in Chinese treasuries, convertible and enterprise bonds.

SAFE data shows that as of September, China has approved 78 foreign institutional investors under the QFII program.

Only large QFII investors such as

Switzerland's UBS have a full \$800 million (5.5 billion yuan) quota, while a vast majority of them have quotas of less than \$200 million.

This year SAFE has approved 12 QFIIs quotas, of which, Bank Negara Malaysia, the Malaysian central bank, and Deutsche Bank Group's DWS Investments were approved last month with QFII quotas of \$200 million each.



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Businesses, consumers meet online

It has been 10 years since e-commerce first made it big. The market has grown and the balance has shifted.

The once absolute hive of sellers pitching their wares at virtual bazaars is being infiltrated by big equipment manufacturers' businesses in desperate need of new buyers at a time when the financial crisis has smashed their sales chain.

But that desperation gives shoppers the best deals yet.

By Annie Wei

Wang Wei, a 30 year-old accountant, bought an iPhone at Zhongguancun during the National Day vacation. But it was not long before he found his 5,000-yuan investment less and less attractive. It was only worse when his high-school classmate Jia Jia showed up toting a knock-off iPhone he bought online for 600 yuan.

Quick to justify his purchase, Wang mumbled something about the phone's shanzhai quality, but Jia said, "You can look down on it for being so cheap, but it still looks like an iPhone and it has a warranty. That's enough when you don't earn much."

Back home, Wang went shopping. He visited ledaojia.com, the well-designed business-to-customer phone seller Jia had used. Its product photos were clear, the descriptions were complete and payment was easy.

Wang was already a frequent shopper at Taobao.com, the biggest customer-to-customer site, but products there were a crapshoot. What arrived often looked very different from what was advertised.

Brand names go online

Iresearch, a leading online research and consulting company, said consumers are not the only ones turning to the Internet: many manufacturers are making it their main sales channel, and the ones that have, have stuck gold.

Some brands set up their own websites while others opened an official Taobao shop. Taobao.com said it hosts many vendors including Lenovo, Levi's, HP, Sanyo and Sony which push more than 1 million yuan of sales per month. Japanese apparel brand Uniqlo sold 300,000 yuan on its first day as a Taobao.com store.

While most online markets are still consumer-to-consumer, the business side is gaining ground as payment barriers fall away, iresearch said. In the early days of online shopping, how to arrange payment was a hassle. But Taobao.com and most business-class websites have expanded

to support all forms of payment: from credit cards to charge cards, mobile phone money transfer and cash on delivery.

Growth during financial turmoil

Among the new business websites, VancI stands out: it has the most online advertising, its men's shirt cost only 99 yuan and its CEO Chen Nian has been interviewed by financial publications and TV programs, including CCTV-2.

Chen founded the company in 2007. Its sales volume was only 1.12 million yuan in its first year, but that rocketed to 300 million yuan by 2008. Within two years, the company was able to handle 20,000 business transactions and sell 40,000 products every day.

Before the economic crisis, it attracted only \$30 million in venture capital.

But rather than being crushed by the crisis, it thrived. Many original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) turned to the domestic market to survive. "Many OEMs that relied on orders from big international brands started to work with us instead," Chen said.

The crisis has driven many consumers online in search of good products that cost less.

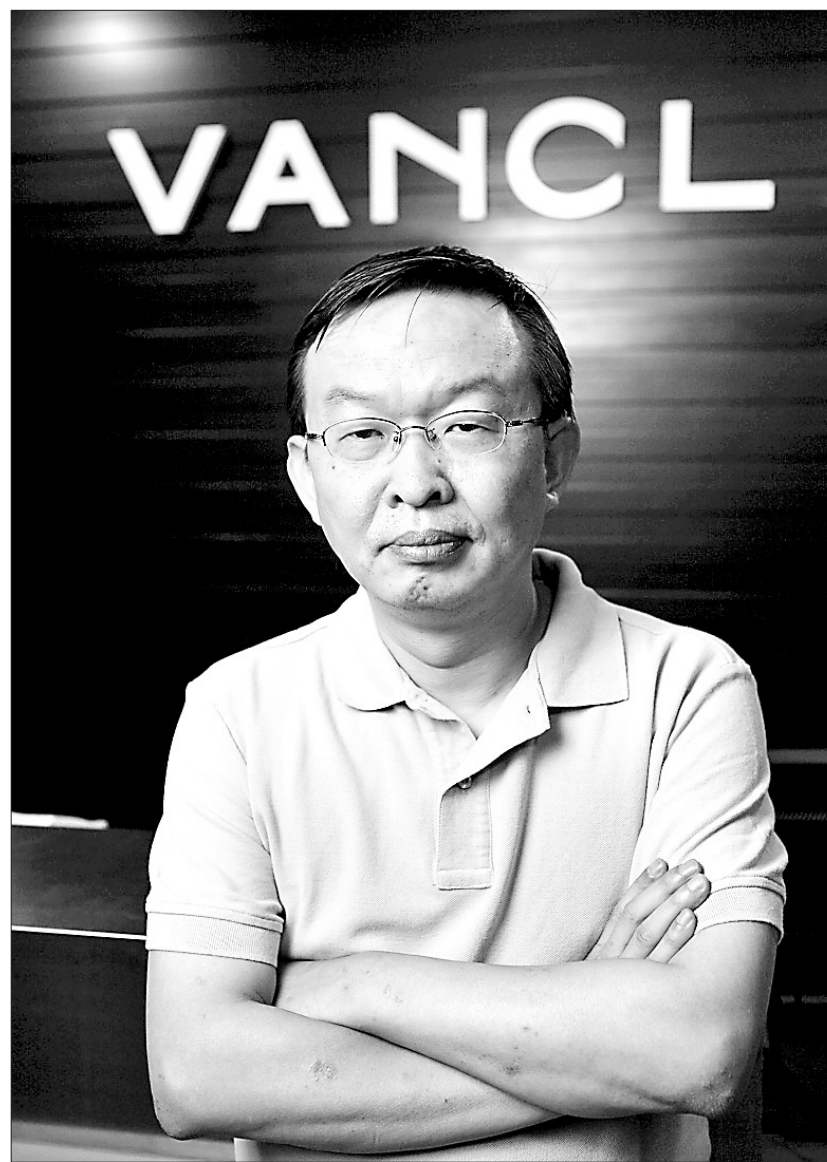
Last month, iresearch's semiannual report on online shopping said that revenue reached 100 billion yuan during the first six months of the year: a 95 percent growth over last year. The global credit crisis had positive compounding effect on the natural growth of online markets.

While the move crushed the profit margins of distributors, it also gave end-users unprecedented access to the company making the product, which helped to elevate the status of many brands.

Marketers needed

But where there is success in China, there are copycats. VancI is currently engaged in an intellectual property battle because many competing sites have stolen their logo and website design.

Although VancI leads the men's



Chen Nian's business-to-consumer brand VancI has sucked up the manufacturing market dropped by big brands during the crisis.



Yushengzhai, a historic local food brand, recently opened its own online store with delivery service.



Some farmers have started selling their produce by introducing it via a webcam.

CFP Photos

market today, its business model is too easy to copy. To keep doing well, it will require a better marketing strategy and a stronger name.

It already pays dearly for online advertising at top portals like Sina and Sohu, and now it is teaming up with offline advertisers. Fast-food giant McDonald's is offering VancI vouchers to its customers. VancI is also planning to hire an expensive spokesperson.

The more companies jump online, the tighter the market gets.

Eric Liu, an Allyse.com shopper and online media agent in Beijing, said many of his clients that began online marketing in the last two years are working on nationwide logistics. Ledaojia.com, for example, offers cash-on-delivery service in 3,300 cities.

"Online shopping is nothing new, but it was only in the last few months that these companies started spending heavily to promote themselves," Liu said. Looking only at the business sellers, spending has increased 30 to 40 percent since last year, he said.

"People skilled in online marketing are the talents in this industry now," Liu said. Some are earning 20,000 to 25,000 yuan per month.

Grace Li, another online media buyer from the Beijing-Dentsu ad agency, said one client, a digital brand she refused to name, has also been pumping money to support its online sales.

"The feedback has been very good, as I know, and the ads have translated into direct sales on their website," she said.

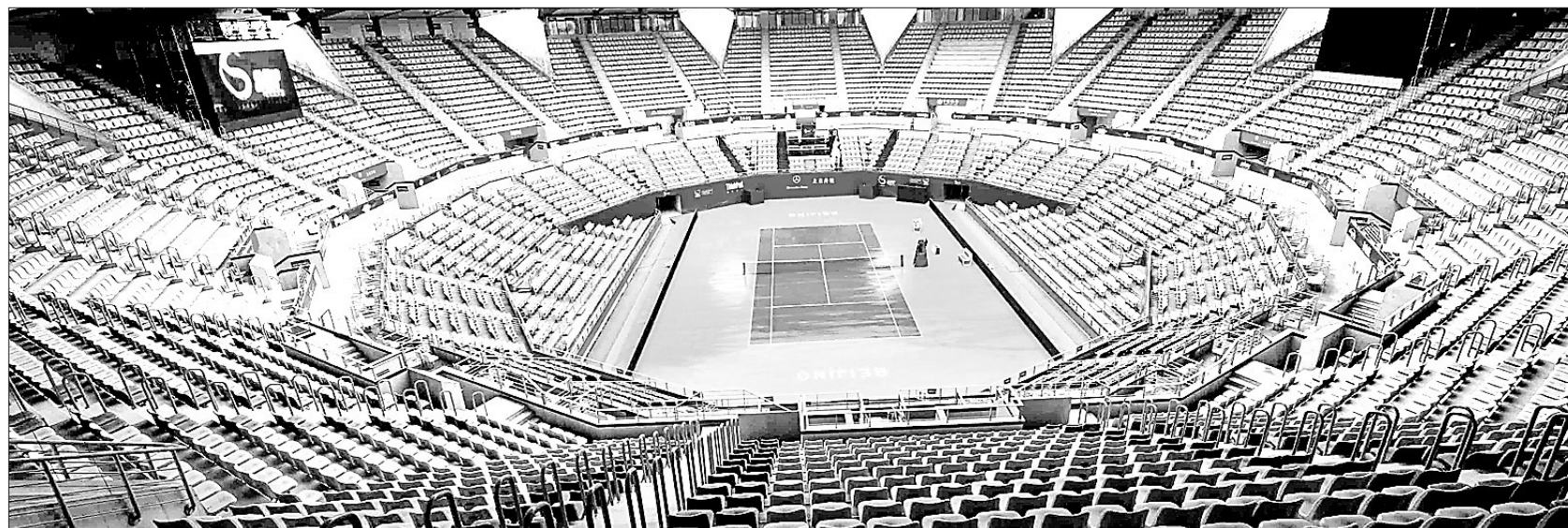


Photo by Dennis Hao



By Huang Daohen

This year's China Open, which ended last Sunday, set new tournament records: 250,000 people poured into the National Tennis Center during the 10-day event, it generated 1,000 hours of television programming, and it posted a 20-percent growth in sponsorship revenue despite the state of the world economy.

China Open sets new records

Creating tennis culture

As many as 160 journalists from home and abroad witnessed the tennis extravaganza and its big plans for the future at the new National Tennis Center last week.

The key to the success of this year's tournament was the creation of a "tennis culture" among the masses, said Zhu Yi, a veteran sports journalist from the Shanghai-based *Oriental Morning Post*.

Compared to the ATP Shanghai Masters' organizers, who emphasize competition, China Open's has put more effort on bringing the sport into the mainstream, said Zhu, who has covered the Shanghai tournament since its inception.

Alongside the matches, multiple festivals were held each day, such as Children's Day, Rock and Roll Carnival Day and China Impression Day, where tennis stars were offered a chance to learn kung fu.

"I think we need to attract more and more kids, young people and seniors to participate in the sport," Zhang Junhui, the China Open commissioner, said. "Only

when a sport becomes popular will it be able to develop well."

Court for the future

At least 250,000 people watched the matches last week, and Zhang hopes the number will continue to increase in the coming years.

Ticket sales and sponsorships are the Open's main revenue generators, but this year, it had to rely heavily on commercial partnerships, Zhang said.

"Sponsorships increased 20 percent this year. They represent an unreasonably high proportion - 70 percent - of our revenue," he said, adding that a healthier figure was 50 to 60 percent, as seen in longer-running tournaments. Zhang admitted the tournament needed to increase ticket sales.

To respond to these challenges, China Open organizers have outlined quite ambitious plans. They are planning to build a new 15,000-seat stadium with a retractable roof next to the event's existing facilities, which were built for the 2008 Olympics.

The new courts, expected to be ready for next year's games,

are being financed by the Beijing municipal government. The China Open aims to build an international sporting center that will be worthy of possibly becoming the fifth grand slam venue, Zhang said.

"The existing facilities cannot meet the needs of a commercial event," he said. "The planned courts will rival the best tennis stadiums in the world and aim to stage the best matches and offer the best services."

Future capital of tennis

With its budding tennis stars, surging investment and government backing, China is where the WTA tour is focusing its expansion, WTA CEO Stacey Allaster said during a press conference last Saturday.

"The China Open has gained success in the last couple of years. It's one of the most important events in Asia and I think it will take center stage in the coming years," Allaster said.

"In particular, I think the depth of women's tennis is being demonstrated here," she said. "I see the potential here. I see Beijing as a future capital of tennis."

Overseas players

Tournament champion not the only winner

By Wang Yu

After a two-hour delay due to rain, Serbia's Novak Djokovic claimed the 2009 China Open men's title at the National Tennis Center last Sunday. Djokovic, the bronze medalist at the Beijing Olympics defeated No. 8 seed Marin Cilic of Croatia, 6-2, 7-6.

On the women's side, Russian player Svetlana Kuznetsova defeated Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland, 6-2, 6-4, to win the women's crown. It was her fourth final in six years at the China Open.

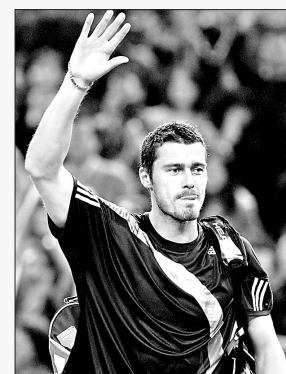
Local fans, especially older ones were more excited to see "legends" than new champions. All eyes were on Marat Safin, the Russian former world No. 1, who plans to retire this year.

Safin's last game in Beijing was played against world No. 2 Rafael Nadal at the center court on October 9. The match viewed by a full house of roaring fans, unfolded like a final.

Safin served up 12 aces in his upset of seventh seed Fernando Gonzalez a day before but only managed one against the Spanish tennis sensation. Robbed of his serve, no amount of racket twirling and delicate net play could keep Safin in the match, and Nadal converted his one break point in the first set and raced away with the second to emerge the winner, 6-3, 6-1.

Though he could not overcome Nadal's extreme top spin and rapid foot work, Safin received overwhelming cheers from the audience. Posters of him were held up by fans all around the bleachers. After the game, a ceremony was held to honor the Russian athlete.

Stadium screens showed videos of fans saying how much they would miss Safin; Djokovic acknowledged that he would indeed be missed. Dinara Safina,



Russia's Safin announced his upcoming retirement during the China Open. CFP Photo

his younger sister and a former world No. 1, talked about his contributions to the game and his inspiring performances.

"It's a nice touch, so thanks for that," Safin said. "She's a good sister."

China Open organizers gave Safin a poster with pictures of fans and volunteers, including a tsar's seal - a reflection of Safin's reputation in China as the "Tsar from Russia." Before the Russian could make a speech, the crowd began chanting, "Safin, Safin," while Nadal stood beside him, applauding.

"It was very nice to see everyone on the stands supporting me and cheering for me rather than Nadal," Safin said jokingly at a post-match media conference.

He also talked about his plans for the near future. "I'll take a couple of months off and just relax and do basically nothing, because I've been doing this for 24 years and I've had to wake up to a schedule 365 days a year," Safin said. "I'll enjoy two months off of tennis and then I'll try to figure out something. But definitely stay in sports."

His Beijing farewell will go down in the China Open's history.

Domestic players

Surprising performance among local stars

By Zhang Dongya

The country's female players pulled off quite a few surprises to this year's China Open. Zhang Shuai, a wild card in the tournament, defeated Russian former world No. 1 Dinara Safina. Peng Shuai and Xie Shuwei won the women's doubles, making Peng the biggest money-maker among the tournament's Chinese athletes.

Twenty-year-old Zhang beat Iveta Benesova of the Czech Republic in the first round, then downed Safina in two straight sets during the second round. Zhang said she won the matches because her opponents were not in very good form, while she maintained her cool.

Zhang, who has inched nearer the top 100 in the last few years, is considered a rising star in women's tennis. Her victory over Safina, the current world No. 2, is expected to improve her ranking.

Peng, who ranks No. 53, defeated in the women's singles Jelena Jankovic, the No. 8 seed and last year's China Open champion. Former top seed Maria Sharapova also lost to her in what was one of the tournament's most thrilling matches and biggest upsets.

Sharapova said Peng played a solid and aggressive game and "did all the right things."

Peng was eliminated in the singles quarterfinals, but partnered with Taiwan's Xie to beat

Russian pair Alla Kudryavtseva and Ekaterina Makarova for the women's doubles title.

Chinese stars like Zheng Jie and Li Na failed to live up to fans' expectations. Zheng lost in the first round to Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia, who would later claim the women's singles crown. In a post-match press conference, Zheng said she played well overall, but was hurt by her serves.

Li gave an average performance and was knocked out of the tournament by Elena Dementieva, a Russian Olympics champion.

China's tennis stars made a good showing during the Open but are expected to perform better in coming tournaments.

American man promotes early childhood education in China

By Venus Lee

Although his movements came only with the aid of a wheelchair after age 21, Art Humphrey, now 55, lived a happy life in his home state of Michigan, USA. He now enjoys a different kind of satisfaction in Beijing, where he moved four years ago and founded a kindergarten together with his business partner.

Family business of education

A group of two-year-old Chinese children surround Humphrey's wheelchair, piling over each other to answer his questions in English. Giggles and laughter explode when he uses exaggerated facial expressions and funny voices during a game with the kids. These are common sights and sounds when Humphrey conducts a class.

The African American was born into a family of teachers, but never worked in education before coming to China. "Education is kind of my family's business. My mother and brother are teachers, most of my aunts and uncles are university professors and deans of colleges," he says. "Only I and four other cousins didn't go into the 'family business,' so it's a bit ironic that I find myself in China doing it."

Humphrey, along with his business partner Shelly Chen, moved to Beijing in 2006 and established American House in Haidian District, which special-



Humphrey and his kindergarten kids

Photos provided by American House

izes in teaching preschoolers. The kindergarten uses an educational method called early childhood development (ECD).

To promote holistic learning among his two- to six-year-old pupils, Humphrey uses games. Through them, he teaches the kids to set goals, use their imaginations and accomplish tasks independently.

"What I do is just condition and guide them to achieve their goals. Kids won't realize they've been taught. They become confident and happy because they

think they were following their own will and can make it on their own," Humphrey says.

"English training is only a small part of what we teach. The development of their total potential, including independence, leadership, discretion, cooperation, responsibility, exploration and communication, is more important and it is never too early to teach them."

Besides games, Humphrey performs tricks in class. "Good teachers are just like magicians, they can capture kids' attention through

novelty and surprise," he says.

Children feel at ease with Humphrey, a sign that he loves what he does. "The two major things I do every day are laugh and sing. Their performances in class are very creative and interesting. Chinese children are enthusiastic learners. They are very adorable and smart."

The school has a US-style graduation ceremony, evening parties and students vote for a class president. "I just want to make them feel that they're growing," Humphrey says.

Professionalizing China's ECD education

Although the school is making enough money, Humphrey and Chen admit their teaching methods are unpopular.

"Most Chinese parents are eager for quick success and instant results in their children's education, and seldom understand scientific education. They consider as education reading books, and always send their children to various competitions to win medals and honors. But education is a long and systematic engineering," Humphrey says.

He says parents, because of worries about their kids' academic performance, keep the young ones away from activities which they believe are useless or "sophisti-



Humphrey joins kids in their outdoor exercise.

cated." This results in the children fearing them and being afraid of making mistakes. "Children's initiative gets frustrated," he says.

Humphrey and Chen are also

frustrated with the brand of ECD education they see in the country. Last year they recruited as teachers a dozen graduates from Peking University and Tsinghua University. None of them stayed on.

"Although they are from two of China's premier universities, they were unimaginative and their knowledge application was poor. The source of qualified talent is in short supply," Chen says.

American School now works with the education departments of Peking University and Tsinghua University to improve their ECD programs.

The American teachers also consider the development of local ECD curriculum slow. "The cur-

riculum of China's ECD is not scientific and is incomplete, which is like having money and materials but lacking designers for a building," Humphrey says. "Children need to master all sorts of knowledge in this era of information explosion, so a scientifically designed curriculum is very important."

He attributes some of these problems to China's late entry into ECD education, but is optimistic about the field's development domestically. "Beijing is the country's educational center, while Haidian District is the city's educational center. So it's a very exciting thing to build a career in basic education here," he says.

Physical disability not an excuse

Humphrey became partially paralyzed in an accident when he was 21. Although his doctor said he would spend the rest of his life using a wheelchair, he never abandoned his dream of enjoying life and doing something big.

He enjoys traveling, sports and volunteer work. In the US, he was a motivational speaker, a TV reporter and a state government advisor on disability issues. A gold ring on his right finger is testament to his team's win in the US national wheelchair basketball championship.

Neither has physical disability prevented him from exploring foreign lands. He has traveled all over China and the world. He admits China's lack of public facilities for the disabled makes going around difficult, but he has never used this as an excuse to stay home.

He frequently visits physically challenging scenic spots such as the Great Wall and the Ming Tombs. "I just want to prove that these places can also be reached by physically disabled people," he says. And after each visit, he contacts the local government responsible for the site to suggest improvements in its facilities. "Although one call can't solve a problem, changes can happen as long as everyone pitches in."

Humphrey is puzzled he seldom encounters disabled people in public when the group's population in China numbers 18 million. Among the few he has met is Hu Hao, who was then a university student.

"I met him in Jinyuan Shopping mall. I've never met a disabled Chinese person on the street before, so I went to talk with him," Humphrey says. He found out Hu was attending Beijing Sports University and wanted to become a wheelchair tennis player.

Humphrey decided on the spot to sponsor the young man's education since he is a living witness to the power of dreams and determination.



Traditional Beijing culture and unique tea

Karma Tea House offers a quintessential look into China and its tea culture from its location in the Xiaoju Hutong, Dongcheng District. Its small quadrangle is bursting with traditional Chinese folk culture.

Relax in your spare time by listening to the old guzheng (Chinese zither) music and taking in some spirited calligraphy. The Karma tea house has a very Buddhist

atmosphere.

Many teas are available, 50 of which are pu-erh, black teas, scented teas and green teas. Special snacks are available free of charge.

The tea house offer premiums green and cooked pu-erh teas. It also has very good rack tea, which is good for the stomach. Many other high-grade green teas are available.

Karma organizes courses to

teach foreigners about the art of tea, Chinese and calligraphy. Take in the sweet and bitter aromas while you gain knowledge. It is a fantastic stop on any Beijing Hutong Tour.

Address: No.40 Xiaoju Hutong, Dongzhimen Nan Xiaojie, Dongcheng district
Tel: 010-84002804
Website: www.yuanqichina.com

Filipino community to hold charity jam session

By Tiffany Tan

Beijing's Filipino residents and their Chinese friends will hold a charity dinner and jam session Sunday to raise money for the Philippine victims of Typhoon Ketsana, which battered the country's north in late September.

"Songs of Hope: Joining Hands for Typhoon Victims in the Philippines," to be held at Salsa Caribe in Sanlitun, will feature a buffet dinner, music by Filipino bands and a raffle. Tickets to the event cost 150 yuan and proceeds will be sent to the Philippines to help in the post-typhoon relief and reconstruction efforts.

Filipino bands will perform for free to provide the evening's entertainment, while amateur Philippine photographers have donated works to be sold at the event.

"It's a way to share the blessings we've received," said Owen Tiam, one of the photographers, who lives in Beijing with his wife and son. "My family is okay, we're safe, but we saw on the news that so many people died."

On September 26, Typhoon Ketsana pounded the northern Philippines, resulting in the worst flooding in 40 years in the capital Manila and its

surrounding areas. Ketsana dumped a month's worth of rain in just six hours, and in some communities, flood waters reached a height of 6 meters, forcing residents to scramble onto the rooftops.

Gingery Comprendio, a resident of suburban Manila, told the Associated Press she left her five children on the roof of her house to alert authorities about a live electric line. When she returned, they were gone.

"I did not know what transpired. We were on top of a roof but we got separated," Comprendio was quoted as saying. "The next day when I came back to our house, I saw my eldest already dead and my aunt saw my other child buried in the mud."

Eight days later, Typhoon Parma followed suit, causing numerous landslides and more flooding. The two typhoons killed more than 700 people and left 400,000 homeless. The damage to crops and fisheries is estimated at a loss of \$396 million (2.7 billion yuan), while another \$114 million of infrastructure was damaged, Philippine officials said.

Tickets to Sunday's charity dinner may be booked through 13910847710 or 13436957729.



Young typhoon victims staying in a temporary shelter.

Xinhua Photo

EU bringing popular European films to Beijing

By Han Manman

Lovers of foreign movies will get a chance to immerse themselves in European films when the European Union Film Festival starts in Beijing next month.

The festival, which will run from November 5 through December 4 in Beijing and Chengdu, will feature popular contemporary films from all 27 EU member states.

In a country where a majority of the 20 foreign films allowed to be screened in theaters each year come from Hollywood, the festival is a chance for Chinese moviegoers to get a taste of the diversity of world cinema.

The festival will showcase 26 films, including the family flick *Mozart in China* by Austrian directors Bernd Neuburger and Madja Seelich; the drama *Fighter* by Denmark's Natasha Arthy; and the Polish comedy *Ladies* by Tomasz Konecki.

"Such a wide and diverse selection will enable the Chinese public to discover the new face of Europe and European films," Mikael Lindstrom, ambassador of Sweden, said at a news conference Wednesday, adding that all the films to be shown were local hits.

"We want the Chinese people to know what kind of films Europeans like to watch," he said.

EU Ambassador to China Serge Abou said the festival highlighted EU's motto, "United in Diversity."

"It's a wonderful example of hard work and cooperation between all our 27 member states. We hope to build on this success to produce an annual event for the Chinese audience with the newest, the best and the most exciting films the European Union has to offer," he said.

Each of the 26 films will be shown twice in Beijing and once in Chengdu. Entrance is free and each film will be screened in its original language with Chinese and English subtitles.

Screenings in Beijing will be held at the French Cultural Center, the Cervantes Institute, the Italian Institute of Culture, the Polish Embassy and the Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA).



Spark Beijing

Join 'unlike-minded' people at Beijing's largest innovation conference

Spark09 is a full-day ideas conference that features 16 industry leaders, non-profit pioneers and a selection of brilliant individuals from around Greater China, in the fields of humanity, environment, business and science. These Thought Leaders will share their insight on how they successfully found unique solutions to real problems. Spark09 talks are designed to fascinate, inspire and ignite innovative thought for their listeners.

Topics include:

- "Will global warming result in a cold war?"
- "Does size matter?", and
- "How do the leaders of China experience love?"

Where: Beijing Hilton Hotel, 1 Dong Fang, North Dong Sanhuan Road

Price: Tickets are only 430 RMB (before Oct 14) or 580 RMB on the door, and all profit goes to The Library Project and 51SIM.org.

Contact: Call +86.10.8447.7115 or Andy Anderson on +86.13795341334 to order tickets. Buffet lunch and coffee tumbler included.

Spark09 promotes China as innovation powerhouse

By Jin Zhu

"China is not known as an innovation center, but that perception will soon change," said Andy Anderson, founder of Spark09, a conference series that brings together human resources industry leaders, non-profit organization pioneers and creative thinkers seeking to promote China as an innovation powerhouse.

After Hong Kong and Shanghai, Beijing will be the venue of Spark09's third conference this year, to be held October 23. The event will feature 15 speakers who have found remarkable solutions to problems in fields like the environment, business and the sciences.

The series takes pride in bringing together "unlike-minded" individuals to share their varied experiences, Anderson said, adding that this will help attendees learn innovative problem-solving techniques.

"There are three steps in the innovation process. First, people need to be aware what problems exist, then assess what tools they

have to overcome them, and finally, try to find ways to solve the problems," he said. "The speakers will provide examples from their life to demonstrate this."

Next week, Gunnar Snorri Gunnarsson, ambassador of Iceland to China, will talk about how his country recovered from the economic recession and reclaimed its title as "one of the happiest places on Earth," as well as its top spot on the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Development Index.

"Iceland was the first victim in the global recession. After being severely hurt, how the country recovered has attracted attention," said Gunnarsson.

"To develop a new and scientific way to cooperate with China, which has a huge untapped market, can be regarded as a great innovation in the business field," he said.

Eric Schmidt, president and founder of BDP Green Technology Company, will discuss how green technology can successfully



Nanotechnology scientists shared ideas with customer service experts, environmentalists and microfinance managers during the Shanghai seminar. Photo provided by Spark09

enter the mainstream.

"China's biodegradable plastic factories are combining revolutionary technology with low production and research and development costs. Whether affordable green tech could be developed here is my biggest focus," Schmidt said.

Spark09 in Beijing, co-organized by Clark Morgan corporate training company, expects at least 500 attendees. Profits from the conference will be donated to two Chinese charities: The Library

Project and 51SIM.

"No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it," Anderson said. "I'm proud to help develop that consciousness while assisting local charities."

Spark09 in Beijing

Where: Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 23, 9:30 am – 6:30 pm

Web site: spark09.org (to book tickets)

Fun at Modern Sky Festival



Chaoyang Park played host to the three-day Modern Sky Festival from October 5 to 7. Though the appearance of foreign artists was canceled just days before the event, local fans still deemed the festival a success. The performances and production were good, but what made it memorable was its bazaar and entertainment areas. Festival attendees momentarily forgot about the lines that were drawn when police officers keeping tabs on the festivities joined their enthusiastic cheering. (By Wang Yu) CFP Photo

Beijing United Family Hospital offers free breast cancer seminars

By Annie Wei

Breast cancer is a health threat to women all over the world. With the rapidly rising global rates of breast cancer, Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics (BJU) launched the United PINK Campaign last month to raise public awareness of the disease.

BUJ says breast cancer can be effectively treated if it is detected early. "Early detection is the best

tool to prevent the spread of breast cancer and is a crucial part of the overall strategy for successful treatment," Dr Philip Brooks, the hospital's director of oncology, says.

"Campaigns like United PINK help fight breast cancer by raising awareness and providing information, letting women know how important screening is for a long and healthy life."

As part of the campaign, BJU

will hold a series of breast-cancer-related lectures and seminars. On October 18, there will be a seminar on the prevention and treatment of breast cancer given in Chinese.

On October 28, Brooks will discuss the latest treatments available for people with breast cancer. Patients' family members and care givers are invited to attend the talk to find out the many ways they can offer support. The Breast Cancer

Treatment Options Seminar will be presented in English and translated into Chinese.

The PINK Campaign also aims to provide 100 impoverished women with free breast cancer screening. In September, 25 women received a free mammogram following an online nomination. The rest of the recipients will be chosen this month.

Web site: ufh.com.cn

Event

Hutong Bike Tour

Hutong, or alleys, hold a special and important position in Beijing's rich history and culture. They are a window into the past and chronicle the last century of dramatic changes.

In this one-day leisurely bicycle tour, participants will develop a better understanding of Beijing history and get a glimpse of old Beijing life and culture.

Where: Meet at the Lama Temple, 28 Yonghegong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 16-18, 9 am – 4:30 pm

Email: service@biking-planet.com

Cost: Call for details

Nordic Mini Film Festival

Five recent films and documentaries from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland will be screened, each telling a story of migrant life and culture in the Nordic world. Films are in English with Chinese subtitles.

Friday, October 16, 6:30 pm: *Jade Warrior*

Saturday, October 17, 6 pm: *Mirush*

Sunday, October 18, 4:30 pm: *Chinaman*; 6:30 pm:

Warner Oland – the Chinese from Bjurholm

Wednesday, October 21, 2 pm: *Jade Warrior*; 4:30 pm:

A Man Like Me

Thursday, October 22, 1 pm: *Chinaman*; 3 pm:

Mirush; 5:30 pm: *Warner Oland – the Chinese from Bjurholm*

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6438 6675

Cost: Free

International Conference on Lighting Design

Ten international lighting designers will gather to discuss "How to Enjoy Lighting and Ecology." They will give tips and show examples on how to design lighting to save energy.

This is an opportunity to network with local and international architects, lighting designers and real estate professionals.

Where: Guozijian, 15 Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District

When: October 16, 6-11:30 pm

Email: daphne.seror@tecnichenuove.com

Cost: Free

Urban Carpet 8x5 exhibitions

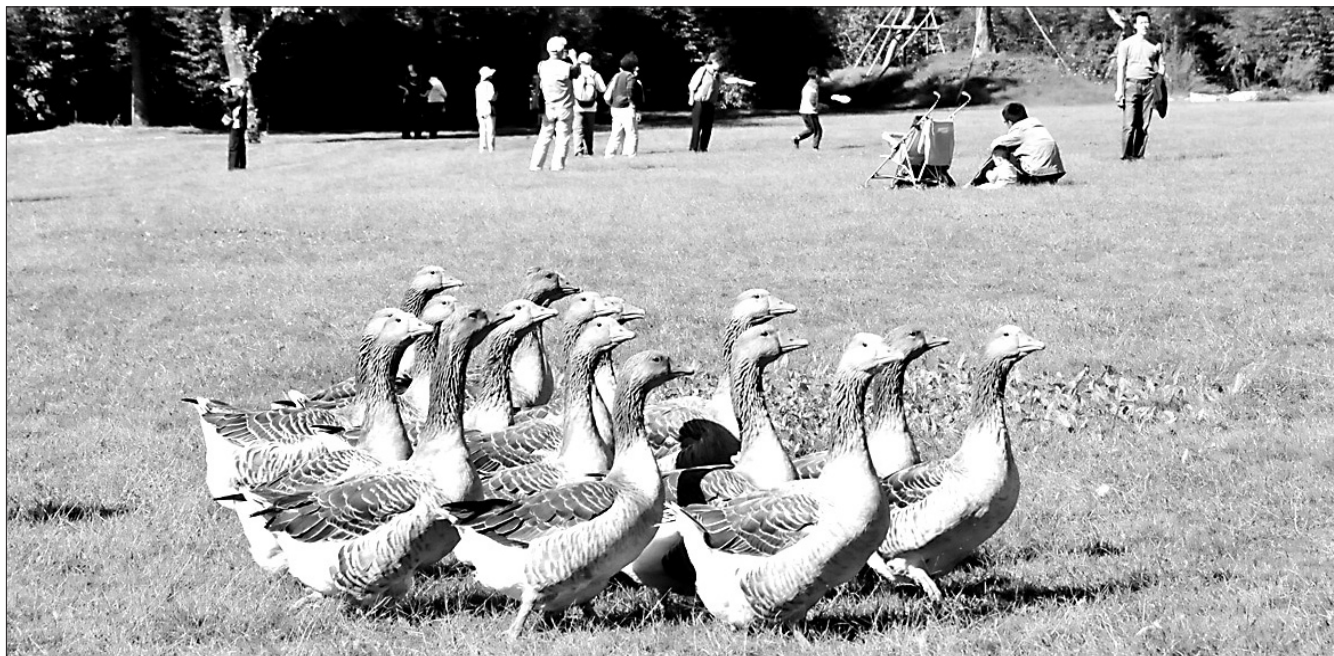
Five exhibitions in five courtyard houses will showcase eight carpets, which reflect life in old Beijing. Visitors will get an insight into the relationship among carpets, the environment and local residents' lives.

Where: 14 Mao'er Hutong, Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District

When: October 17, 11 am – 10 pm

(By Wei Ying)

North side of Olympic Forest Park welcomes visitors for free



The Olympic Forest Park is a new leisure spot for residents on the weekend.

CFP Photo

By Wang Yu

Beijingers who hope to escape downtown's weekend crowds have a new refuge: the north side of the Olympic Forest Park, which has welcomed visitors since the National Day holiday.

The park, located on the north end of Beijing's central axis, has a total area of 680 hectares and is bisected by North Fifth Ring Road. The 300-hectare north park saw more than 2 million visitors during last year's Beijing Olympics.

The south park was developed

into a garden, while the north was made into a tree and bird reserve. Nearly 2,000 trees from 176 species have been brought from other Chinese cities to the north park. Among the birds, the stars are Beijing's barn swallows, which have their own pavilion. A 100,000-square-meter sunflower garden is currently being constructed.

Visitors can enter the north park through three gates: one on Anli Road, Lincui Road and the North Fifth Ring Road's secondary route.

Bicycles are not allowed in the park, but it offers 120 electric vehi-

cles and tricycles for rent at the service counter. There are also 11 restaurants inside the park.

Tian Jinxian, the park manager, said they are planning to add a train that will traverse the north and south parks, and which will be connected to Subway Line 10 in the south park.

As the demand for wooded scenic spots grows among locals, the municipal government is planning to open five more forest parks in Beijing next year. They will be located in Guang'anmen, Xuanwu District; Jingtaiqiao, Chongwen

District; Changxindian, Fengtai District; Dianmen, Dongcheng District and Fushilu, Shijingshan District. The largest among them will be Huayu City Forest Park in Fushilu, which will cover an area of 8.4 hectares.

Olympic Forest Park

Where: 15 Beichen Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

How to get there: Take Bus Rapid Transit Line 3 to Yangshan-qiaobei station on the park's east gate, or take Bus 510 to Jingshiyuan station on the west gate

Open: 6 am - 8 pm

Water Cube closed for renovation

By Zhang Dongya

The Water Cube, one of Beijing's newest landmarks, closed yesterday for a half-year-long renovation. It is scheduled to reopen in June 2010.

The reconstruction work will be divided into three phases, the Olympic Green's management said. The Cube's 11,000 temporary seats and a platform will be dismantled and replaced with showrooms and fitness facilities.

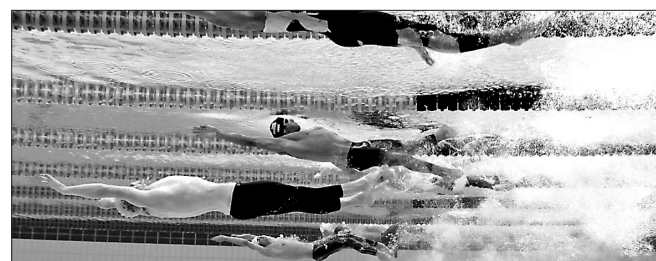
Other temporary structures built for the 2008 Beijing Olympics will be dismantled, and garages and other support facilities will be built according to the pre-Games plan.

But the new Cube's focal point

will be a 10,000-square-meter water park, expected to become the country's most advanced aquatic amusement park.

Although its original architecture will be preserved, the Water Cube will be reborn as an indoor multifunctional aquatic center that will host large-scale international events, as well as local water sporting events, and cultural and leisure activities. It will also offer more activities for tourists.

The building's operational capacity will be improved to serve Beijing residents, the Olympic village's management said. It will become home to restaurants, amusement parks and fitness centers, making it a much more



More swimming competitions and performances will be held in the Water Cube next year after the renovation.

CFP Photo

attractive destination to locals.

The Cube, which generates revenue mainly through ticket sales, is expected to attract more tourists after it undergoes a facelift.

The renovation is taking place during the local tourism indus-

try's off season to minimize inconvenience.

According to its Web site, the Water Cube received 12,000 to 15,000 visitors per day during the last year, and hosted a large-scale activity every two to three days.

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

Do you know of any community service volunteer activities in Beijing? Something like helping out in orphanages or looking after disabled children.

There are many volunteer activities in town. Go to ngocn.org's volunteer recruitment page, where there's a lot of information about available volunteer work, from helping with English translations to teaching migrant children football.

My 12-year-old son needs orthodontic work on his upper and lower teeth. I recently got quoted 20,000 yuan for this dental work but cannot afford it. Can anyone give me advice where I can get this work done and not have to pay a fortune for it.

Most comprehensive Chinese hospitals in town have a dental department and charge reasonable prices. Orthodontic treatments for children age 12 usually start at 7,000 yuan.

Here are the English Web sites of a couple of big hospitals in town:

No. 1 Hospital of Beijing University: bddyy.com.cn/english.shtml

People's Hospital of Beijing University: phbjmu.edu.cn/english/

Where can I buy Dr. Scholl's insoles?

There used to be a Dr. Scholl's shop at Oriental Kenzo Plaza on Dongzhimen Avenue but it has closed down. You can find other brands of insoles at the Birkenstock shop across Raffles City, also on Dongzhimen Avenue.

Can you recommend good spinal surgeons?

One of the best orthopedic hospitals in the city is Beijing Jishuitan Hospital, and we've heard they do very good spinal surgeries. But it's a public hospital, so expect a long line of patients. People usually need to wait a few days for surgery, and you can get a quote before the procedure. The hospital has a department for foreigners and VIPs, but expect to pay more if you go there.

Beijing Jishuitan Hospital
Where: 2 Qiujia Hutong, Xicheng District
Tel: 5851 6688

(By Wei Ying)

Good-bye Panjiayuan rent-free flea market stalls

By Zhao Hongyi

Panjiayuan Antique Market this week ended its program of giving rent-free stalls in its flea market every Thursday. Starting Monday, its management resumed charging 10 yuan per stall on all weekdays.

The flea market, which opened August, is the first of its kind in Beijing and attracted hordes of visitors. Local merchants poured in every Thursday during the

summer months of August and September to take advantage of the rent-free stalls and the huge crowds of shoppers.

For the public's safety and security, the market management requires all vendors to give it an itemized list of their merchandise. Items commonly for sale include handicrafts, secondhand kitchenware and house wares like porcelain and decorations.

The flea market has more than a thousand stalls for rent, 50 of which are reserved every day for vendors who book online through panjiayuan.com.

The market management believes the two-month run of offering free stalls has given the flea market needed publicity and that its brisk business will continue. Many vendors, however, are not so optimistic.

"We sell second-hand goods only for fun. Profit is already quite low, so I believe that with the new rule's implementation, many vendors will withdraw and the market will no longer be as popular as before," said Wang Jiang, a Thursday regular.

"I doubt if the market will remain successful once the number of vendors and shoppers go down," he said.

Huang Lin, a member of Panjiayuan's management, told *Beijing Today* they expect the new regulation to affect the flea market's sales a bit, but it was worth the sacrifice to steer it in a better direction.

The flea market is open from 6 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

For stall booking

Web site: panjiayuan.com
Tel: 5120 4699

Two sides of Bey



Beyoncé started her world tour from Europe to North America in April; Beijing will be her only stop during the Chinese mainland stretch of her Asia tour.

Her live performance is the most anticipated concert event of this year by mass media. "Beyoncé Knowles raised the bar for what can be done in an arena show," UK's the *Daily Telegraph* commented after the artist's London show in May.

One of 2008's most anticipated new album releases, *I Am... Sasha Fierce*, was Beyoncé's first new studio collection since her Grammy-winning multi-platinum-selling *B'Day* debuted at No. 1 on charts around the world shortly after its international release on September 4, 2006: her 25th birthday.

A No. 1 best-seller in the US and Japan, *I Am... Sasha Fierce* also sold well in China and featured the singles "If I Were A Boy," her No. 1 smash on the UK charts, "Single Ladies (Put A Ring on It)," which hit No. 1 on the American Billboard Hot 100 and R&B charts and spent three weeks at No. 1 on Germany's airplay-based club charts, and the single "Halo," which was No. 1 on the Hit FM Airplay chart for two weeks.

The tour is Beyoncé's first live performance of songs on the album. Top designer, director and photographer Thierry Mugler is working as creative advisor and costume designer for the "I AM..." Tour.

Mugler promises to showcase the music and film superstar, along with her extraordinary all-female band, performing musical hits, classics and a few surprises in a new state-of-the-art concert environment.

"When I started the record," says Beyoncé of *I Am... Sasha Fierce*, "I knew that, artistically, I had to grow. Even though I have been very successful and very fortunate, I want to still be challenged and still be nervous and still be anxious about all the things that make my career exciting."

The album reveals a distinctly different side of her personality, character and sensibility: a forum for the yin-and-yang of her developing artistry.

"Sasha Fierce is my alter ego," she says. "I have someone else that I can be. And when I am on stage, this alter ego comes out. That is who I really am. That is who I am underneath all the makeup, the exciting star drama."

"[She] is the fun, more sensual and more glamorous side that comes out on the stage. The album allows me to be myself, or shall I say, step more into people who know me see," she says.

With the album, Beyoncé reveals that she may take her fans by surprise. Country songs and alternative songs and acoustic songs, she says.

Beyoncé has produced, written, and selected a collection of contemporary ballads that expand her soul music while expanding the possibilities of R&B.

"You can hear with 'If I Were A Boy' that it's not a traditional R&B song," she says, "but it's a new thing because people have started to hear songs with strong emotions."

Beyoncé says she loves singing ballads because the emotion in the story is told so much more clearly. "You can hear it and it is not all these other things. You can hear my voice and hear what I had to say."

For *I Am... Sasha Fierce* album, Beyoncé and producers that I normally had not worked with, like Timbaland and Pharos, and Gad on "If I Were A Boy" and the UK song "Single Ladies."

"Sasha Fierce is my alter ego, and now she has a last name,"



yonce

By He Jianwei

2009 is not over, but *Billboard* has already picked its woman of the year: Beyonce. She was honored with the title at *Billboard*'s annual Women In Music luncheon at the Pierre Hotel in New York after performing "Halo" on October 2.

Next Friday, Beyonce's "I AM ..." World Tour will come to Wukesong Arena for her first full-length concert since 2007's sold-out "The Beyonce Experience," and will perform songs from *I Am ... Sasha Fierce*, her latest international chart-topper.

and now she has a last name," Beyonce takes over when it is time for me to work. My alter ego that I have created kind of protects why half the record, *I AM...*, is about who I am underneath the lights and underneath all

al, more aggressive, more outspoken side comes out when I am working and when I am not. I take more risks and really step out of myself, and reveal a side of me that only

a variety of musical aspects and interests including a range of influences including "folk guitar ... stuff that's different from what

recorded and performed a finely crafted album that combine the best elements of pop and R&B of both genres.

ly, [one of the album's first singles], it is difficult to grow and to break out and meet expectations. I feel like at this point, I want to write lyrics and songs that made you feel." Beyonce adds because she feels like the music and the lyrics are better. "It is a better connection because of the lyrics and the music. I really wanted people to hear the music," she says.

yonce collaborated with some "writers and producers" including producer Toby Maguire and writer Amanda Ghost on "Disappear,"

which reminds Beyonce "of the Beatles a tad bit," "Satellites" and "Ave Maria," in which Beyonce reimagines a classic aria in a new and original musical setting. "When I knew that certain things I wanted to say, I could not say myself, I invited other writers to come in," she says. "Lyrically, it is the best album I have ever had. If a song did not say anything or mean anything to me, I did not put it on the record."

The album's lead-in track is "Single Ladies (Put A Ring On It)," Beyonce's scorching anthem of personal empowerment.

"That song is all about: 'I've been with you all this time, you're taking too long and now I'm looking hot and you see it and you gotta suffer because you shoulda put a ring on it,'" Beyonce says. "In my life, when I put on the stiletto, it is all about being confident, sometimes overly confident, and hearing all the things that women need to hear to boost themselves and go out and to move on."

"It just seems like a feel-good record, but when you really listen to the lyrics, it is about me growing up," she says. "In my household, I did not go to all of the parties and I did not do all the things that a lot of the other teenage girls did because I was so in love with my radio and my music. I was so in love with this radio and my parents were happy that I was into something positive. I try to make up tempo records that feel good, but underneath they are still saying something."

According to Beyonce, "Sasha Fierce is kind of the opposite, she's more the other side because sometimes you don't want to think; sometimes you just want to feel good. She is the party girl, or she is Bootylicious. She is but I'm not. She's my alter ego. I am finally revealing who I am."

The album is a collection of the kinds of songs that "I am usually known for and I love just as much as the more intimate side of me," she says.

The Beijing audience will not only listen to Beyonce's first live performance of songs from the album, but also experience her charms on stage.



Beyonce's "I AM ..." World Tour

Where: Wukesong Arena,
69 Fuxing Lu, Haidian District
When: October 23, 8 pm
Admission: 288-1,688 yuan
Tel: 6417 7845

The playwright who married Monroe

By Charles Zhu

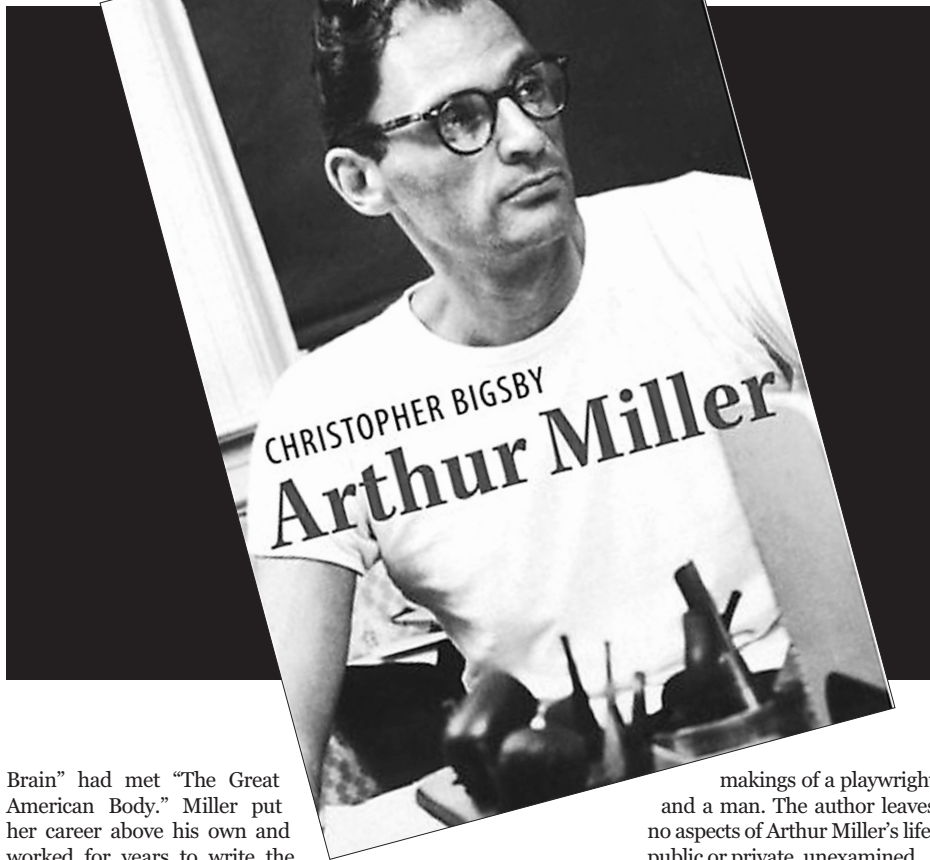
Fans of "Death of a Salesman" can look forward to *Arthur Miller: 1915-1962* (739 pp. Harvard University Press, US\$35), a new biography by Christopher Bigsby of the playwright who punched holes in the flimsy American Dream.

Miller was born into a wealthy Jewish family. His father, originally from Poland, ran a brisk women's clothing business. The family went broke during the Great Depression, and a teenage Miller had to deliver bread each morning at 4 am to help the family get by.

Miller attended the University of Michigan where he began to write plays. He died on February 10, 2005, at age 89 in his home in Roxbury, Connecticut. The biography is devoted to the first 47 years of his life.

The author of *Death of a Salesman*, a landmark of 20th-century drama, had a brief and rocky marriage to Marilyn Monroe. He met Marilyn for the first time at a Hollywood party in his honor in 1951. On the occasion, Miller, a father of two, was thrilled by the erotic scenery where women were clearly on offer to him. He had "never before seen sex treated so casually as a reward of success." Monroe came, "almost ludicrously provocative," squeezed into a dress that was "blatantly tight, declaring rather than insinuating that she had brought her body along and that it was the best one in the room."

For Monroe, meeting Miller "was like running into a tree!" "Like a cool drink when you've got a fever." When they met again, Monroe then had an unhappy nine-month marriage to DiMaggio and Miller was having troubles in his marriage and, as Elia Kazan said, "He was starved for sexual relief." They married in 1956, and as Norman Mailer famously commented: "The Great American



Brain" had met "The Great American Body." Miller put her career above his own and worked for years to write the screenplay *Misfits* to be directed by John Huston and to star Monroe. However, during this period, she had an affair with Yves Montand. The couple divorced in Mexico in 1961.

People believe that Monroe had such an impact on Miller that his life could be divided clearly into pre- and post-Monroe. *Death of a Salesman*, which opened on Broadway in 1949, established Miller as a giant of the American theater when he was only 33. It won three theatrical prizes that year: the Pulitzer Prize, the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award and the Tony. "The Crucible," a 1953 play about the Salem witch trials inspired by his virulent hatred of McCarthyism, and *A View From the Bridge*, a 1955 drama of obses-

sion and betrayal, ultimately took their place as popular classics on the international stage, but Miller's later plays never equaled his early successes although he penned 17.

Now, in addition to Miller's autobiography, *Timebends*, and a recent biography by Martin Gottfried, Bigsby's new work, based on boxes of papers, including unfinished manuscripts, made available to him before Miller's death, is a more passionate witness to the writer's life.

Critics comment that Bigsby's biography reveals much more than Miller did in his autobiography. Above all, it is a book about the puzzle of politics and art and about the unreliable solution of sex. The book provides a richly detailed, revealing look at the

makings of a playwright and a man. The author leaves no aspects of Arthur Miller's life, public or private, unexamined.

Bigsby has a perfect ear for the manners of Miller's art, and he tells a gripping story of Miller's hunt for truth. Bigsby's biography manages to locate Miller's art in terms both of the progression of his idealism and the regressions of his actual experience. There can't be many writers who appeared to live so much at the center of their times and who suffered so much from that seeming centrality. Bigsby persuasively argues that Miller's career was shaped by a profound conviction that the theater could play a meaningful role in changing the world. Even if that belief appears overly hopeful, Miller's plays stand as a testament to his courageous capacity to explore dilemmas of civic conscience and the human heart.

The Magnificent Trees of Beijing

By Han Mamman

"This book is not a guide to all the fine trees of the city, nor is it in anyway a serious study of flora, nor is it designed to help identify plant species," writes the author in the preface of the book. "Rather, this is a celebration of those trees that have a link with history, that have stories to tell."

The *Magnificent Trees of Beijing* (305 pp, SDX Joint Publishing Company, 66 yuan) steps through time by traversing the annual rings of trees. It not only records Beijing's oldest trees, but also tells the city's long history. Most ancient trees are found in old temples or villages that outline Beijing's past.

Author Virginia S. Anami says the book is intended as a

historical feature of the sites at which Beijing's trees are planted. None of the trees in the book grew wild: all were planted in old parks, temples, cemeteries and streets centuries ago. The old buildings around these trees may have long ago disappeared, but trees stand as historical markers of past stories.

Anami says almost 7,000 of the capital's trees have been around for three or more centuries. "Those trees I marked for special investigation were either particularly aged, associated with an ancient site, had a local legend, were connected with some episode or related to a famous personage," she said. "Like old wise men confident of their knowledge over the

years, these trees have reticently watched the unfolding of time."

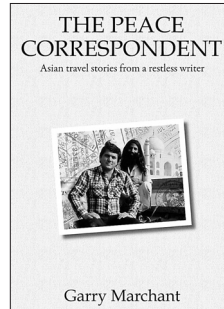
In the book, the trees in the Summer Palace witness the invading troops of the Eight Power Alliance as it sacks Beijing; a tree in last emperor Puyi's home sees a Russian general pass his saber to a Japanese general in a surrender that ends the Russo-Japanese War.

Anami, born an American in 1944, became a naturalized Japanese citizen in 1970 and has lived in the US, Japan, Pakistan, Australia and China with her diplomat husband, Ambassador Koreshige Anami. From 1983 to 2006, she lived and worked in Beijing, when she traveled often to its suburbs to photograph these giant trees and record their stories.



Earnshaw Book listing

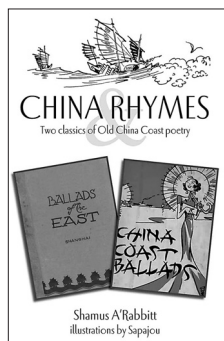
Earnshaw Books recommends the following bestsellers to *Beijing Today* readers. Find them at the Bookworm, Chaterhouse or earnshawbooks.com.



The Peace Correspondent

By Garry Marchant, 284pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

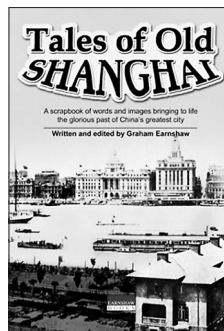
A well-seasoned traveler with a taste for the exotic, Garry Marchant writes of more than 30 years of jaunts around Asia: tales to amuse and delight. Armed with a journalist's insatiable curiosity and a fluid pen, he brings a fresh and often hilarious perspective on lesser-known points East.



China Rhymes

By Shamus A' Rabbitt, 280pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

The poet laureate of the China Treaty Ports, Shamus A' Rabbitt caused a sensation in the 1930s with his *Ballads* books, which mocked the world of foreigners in the Orient. His poetic portrayals were sharp, accurate and hilarious. With bouncy, limerickesque rhythms, razor-sharp satirical wit and a healthy distaste for hypocrisy and pretension, Shamus A' Rabbitt's work today gives the reader a perfect whirlwind tour of Old China.



Tales of Old Shanghai

By Graham Earnshaw, 165pp, Earnshaw Books, 140 yuan

Old Shanghai was a rich and cosmopolitan mixture of East and West. This book provides a glimpse into that world with a mish mash of photos, newspaper clips, cartoons and writings to revive those far-off days. There has never been a place like Shanghai – the layers and depth of richness that the city possesses is extraordinary. This book attempts to give a feel for the world of Old Shanghai. There is no need to start at page one and read through to the end. It is a jumble of items which evoke the different eras of Old Shanghai.

(By Zhang Dongya)

Back to the darkroom

What the digital revolution cannot capture

By Wang Yu

What has digital technology brought the world? Computers, undersea cables and new media for music and art.

The chips have also made cameras – once a luxury product – affordable to photography enthusiasts. Anyone with enough money to drop on an entry level camera can throw his photos online to show off or record life.

But some believe the digital process kills serious photography by killing everything that comes after the click of a shutter.

"It is totally different to see a picture on your screen that was scanned from film. That's what real life looks like," says Wang Wei, founder of pscam.cn, one of China's top film photography communities. But Wang and his team are more than casual fans – they have plans to turn their hobby into a real business.

Private records on films

Heymy works as a journalist for a reputable magazine. His used Leica M6 film camera is the new favorite in his equipment arsenal – at least after his Macbook and tape recorder. He swapped his friend a Canon XL2 digital video camera in exchange for the luxury machine.

"Digital stuff just doesn't interest me. The chips do everything you are supposed to learn, and it's boring. When I sell my digital equipment, the price I get for it speaks of just how cheap the chips are," he says.

And that is one thing all film nuts agree on.

Heymy got his start with stills on the Cannon XL2 before stepping into film photography. But his friends were film fans, and it was not long before he made progress.

Film continues to have many special qualities which digital imaging can never touch. The particles of the negative exposed by the Leica can never be fully captured in flat pixels, and will never be copied by a DC and the sensitivity and depth of Ilford Photo's black-and-white film is far beyond the reach of Adobe Photoshop.

"The beauty of film will only be seen after it is scanned and loaded on the screen. Digital photos are easy to see, and it takes away from the surprise. There is more to enjoy in photography than just opening the shutter: digital loses the whole darkroom process," Heymy says.

Wang Wei, founder of pscam.cn could not agree

more. The Beijinger moved to Guangzhou in 2001 to edit for a portal. His first camera was a Canon Ixus, but in 2005 Wang picked up a Yashica T4 film camera after seeing the Japanese movie *Collage in Our Life*.

"I was attracted by the sound of the shutter. My T4 was brand new and cost me about 1,000 yuan. At that time, people around me were still investing in digital cameras and lenses. But the rich color of film moved me to give up on high technology," Wang says.

Boys love machines: Wang says the mechanical guts attracted him more than his photos. But it is the photos that keep the long-time traveler taking pictures.

"There is a happiness you find when developing film in the middle of the night – and when your interviewee points at your Leica and says, 'That's the camera my dad uses!' Each film picture is unique, and only a real mechanical back end can record the trail of a photographer," Heymy says.

Film on the web

Wang's warehouse includes 400 automatic cameras, 100 single lens reflex film cameras and the Leica. He has bought another 100 cameras after his trip to Hong Kong over the National Day holiday. "One reason I collect so many is that, as the head of pscam.cn, I must learn more and use more machines for the site's content," he says.

The website opened in May 2008, and with the help of the other three team members – including Wang's wife – it grew to be China's only professional film camera site to draw 80,000 visits a day. Pscam's purpose is made clear in its Chinese name: private machines. Its features include film albums posted by users, camera reviews, prices, a market guide and photography tutorials.

Though time is too limited for offline events, the team has organized online activities like a camera relay. The team selected one photographer from each city to participate. The relay started when Wang sent the first photographer a camera. The photographer was required to shoot a full roll of film and pass the camera off to the next photographer. The winner was awarded a new camera from Wang's warehouse.

Wang's professional background helped him build a portal site for film cameras rather than a fan blog. His team includes high-ranking staff members like vision directors from other IT companies.

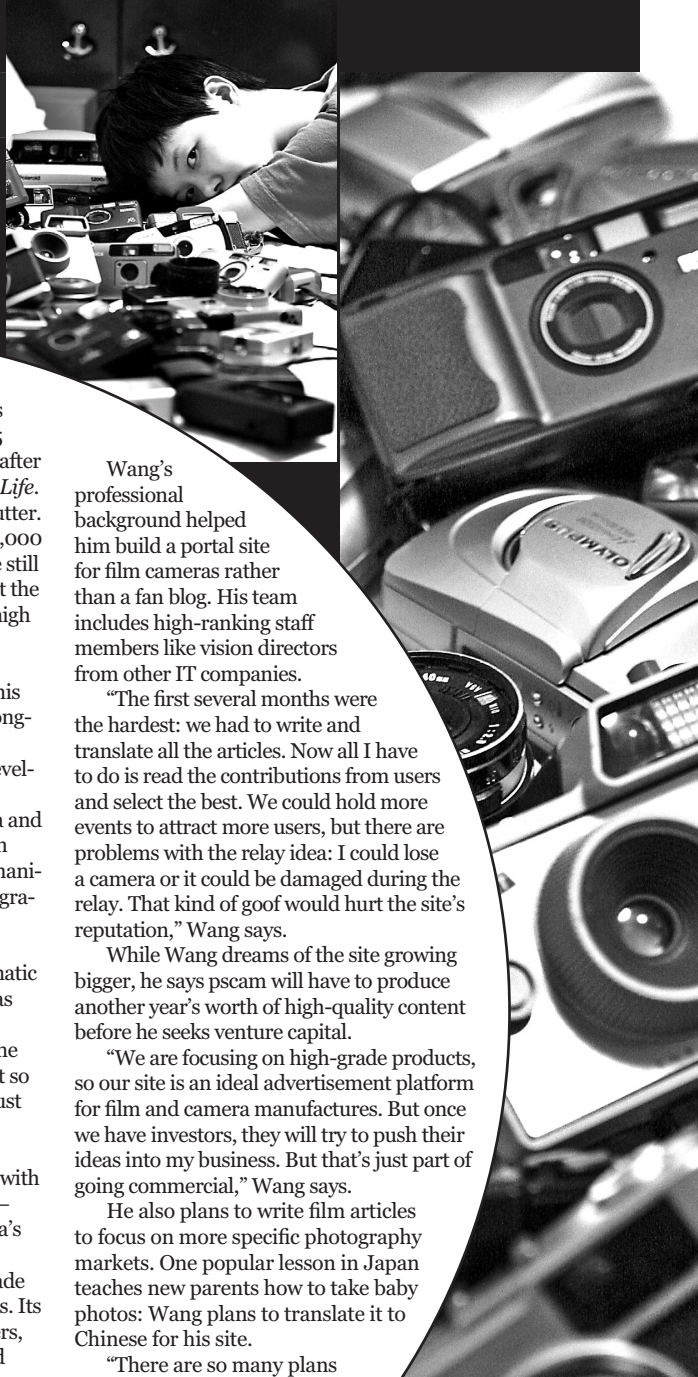
"The first several months were the hardest: we had to write and translate all the articles. Now all I have to do is read the contributions from users and select the best. We could hold more events to attract more users, but there are problems with the relay idea: I could lose a camera or it could be damaged during the relay. That kind of goof would hurt the site's reputation," Wang says.

While Wang dreams of the site growing bigger, he says pscam will have to produce another year's worth of high-quality content before he seeks venture capital.

"We are focusing on high-grade products, so our site is an ideal advertisement platform for film and camera manufactures. But once we have investors, they will try to push their ideas into my business. But that's just part of going commercial," Wang says.

He also plans to write film articles to focus on more specific photography markets. One popular lesson in Japan teaches new parents how to take baby photos: Wang plans to translate it to Chinese for his site.

"There are so many plans but too little time. But [helping more people to] take pictures on the film is always my motivation to get things done," he says.



Photos provided by Wang Wei

Filling your closet with INDIE LABELS

Luxurious, casual and laid-back

Joyrich debuted in Los Angeles in 2007 with a fashion philosophy of "freedom, hope, dream and love." It specializes in casual and laid-back yet rich and luxurious clothes.

Its designer Tom Hirota believes that a person should never forget to enjoy life, thus he creates clothing for this lifestyle. Hirota, who hails from Japan, wants to leave his stamp on America and continues to make his dream a reality by opening Joyrich's first store on 7700 Melrose Avenue in LA.

The brand is characterized by its wide color palette, and its sexy short skirts are a favorite among Western celebrities.

Joyrich

Where: Room 12 and 13, 2/F Joy City, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District



Arrtco coat,
price to be decided

Inspired by visual art, music and literature

A reputable indie fashion agent for a long time, Arrtco finally decided to create its own designs early last year.

The brand's name, which combines "art" and "cooperation," reflects Arrtco's attitude toward fashion and art. "Urban" "unique" and "underground" are the three words most often used to describe it. Having been an agent for more than 40 fashion labels helped Arrtco find its niche in the industry.

Its clothes are specially designed for the 18- to 30-year-olds based on their taste in visual art, literature and music. Arrtco's fabrics are a canvas of bright colors and it favors slim cuts.

Its fall/winter 2009 collection is themed "downtown life" and is created by young domestic designers working with artists such as local rock band Joyside and Queen Sea Big Sharks. The series is inspired by downtown scenes, where a rich variety of subcultures usually come together.

One of the featured pieces is a red coat that can be worn as a cloak. It goes best with a pair of skinny jeans.

Arrtco

Where: Room 12 and 13, 2/F Joy City, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District



Sankuanz M65, 988 yuan
Photo provided by Sankuanz



Joyrich coat, 599 yuan
Photos provided by Arrtco

By Wang Yu

National Day holiday usually marks the start of cold weather in Beijing. The shorter days that come with the changing of the seasons are accompanied by slight feelings of depression.

But to the fashion industry, this means the best season of the year has arrived. Good-bye to plain T-shirt and jeans ensembles. Cold means more layers of clothing and more opportunities to dress creatively. Looking on the bright side of things, this is also the time when you can hide your least favorite body parts.

To create a unique yet affordable look, *Beijing Today's* answer is to seek out the works of independent young designers. Their refreshing cuts and patterns will make you not only stand out but test your ability to mix and match.



Na(too)
knitted
sweater,
420 yuan

Emotion in fashion

Zhang Na, a Beijinger who now lives in Shanghai, started (Na)too in 2007. She graduated from the fashion design department of the Xi'an Academy of Fine Arts, then went on to train at MOD' ART International in France.

The concept behind the label was to inspire happiness through good design. It explores the connection between people, their dress and their environment.

"I think fashion is marked by regionality. People's style of dress in Beijing differs from that in Shanghai; more so between different countries," Zhang said.

Zhang, who has worked for other design studios, aims to combine emotion with fashion, instead of making complicated clothing structures.

"From studio to factory, every part must be well-integrated. The little details cannot be found in textbooks," she said.

(Na)too's latest collection is themed "shadow," which is characterized by layers, draping and gradual change in patterns. Its core colors are black and gray, with a spotting of mustard. A shade of tan is used as a transition between the "shadows."

(Na)too

Where: Room 12 and 13, 2/F Joy City, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

Dreaming the designs

Independent clothing designers are playing an increasingly bigger role in the country's fashion industry. They open a new world of choices to funding-deprived, fashion conscious individuals. Their designs are fresh, brave, filled with energy – and in tune with customer demand.

One of the noteworthy labels in this scene is Sankuanz. Zhezi, the designer of the Xiamen-based brand, majored in graphic design in college and became his own first boss.

"Music has a great influence on my works and Sankuanz's fall/winter collection is inspired by Tom Waits and Nick Cave, two of my favorite musicians," he said. Most of Sankuanz's clothes are unisex.

One of Zhezi's new creations is a funky black jacket based on the classic M65 coat. It is ideal for indoor parties or other evening socials, especially after midnight, when the most adventurous fashioni-

stas come to town to show off.

He said inspiration for the jacket came to him in a dream, in which he was in the studio of Yohji Yamamoto, a Japanese fashion designer known for his avant-garde creations. Zhezi immediately started work on the piece as soon as he woke up.

"The whole process was very comfortable. I cared little about the trend and useless details. I just focused on my ideas," he said.

The designer, who is in his mid-20s and is a bit shy, does not think his lack of experience is a problem. "Everyone in my team does his own job well, and other people help me a lot in manufacturing," he said.

For now, while Zhezi is looking for suitable shops to carry his clothes, his products are only available on his online store on taobao.com.

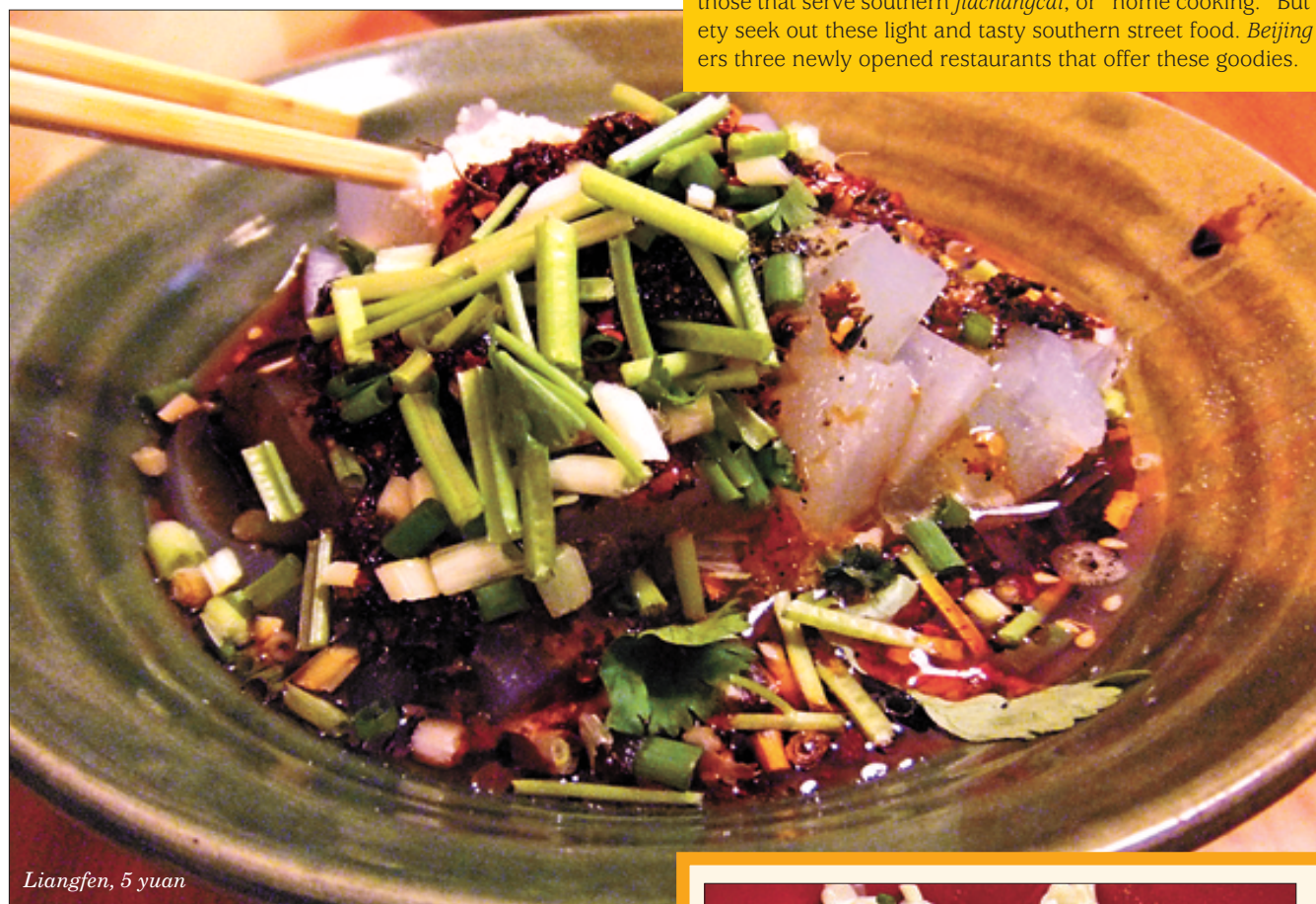
Web site: sankuanz.taobao.com

Southern snack time!

Get your fill of mango desserts, Cantonese favorites and Sichuan street food

By Annie Wei

The number of restaurants that offer southern snacks and desserts is smaller compared to those that serve southern *jiachangcai*, or "home cooking." But Beijingers looking for a little variety seek out these light and tasty southern street food. *Beijing Today* joins the hunt and discovers three newly opened restaurants that offer these goodies.



Liangfen, 5 yuan

Everyone loves mango desserts

Street vendors selling iced mango drinks are a common sight in southern Chinese cities. The taste of mango smoothies with chunks of real mango brings relief no matter what time of day. A half-liter glass usually costs 9 yuan.

The opening of Mango Box brings this popular southern thirst-quencher to Beijingers. The place has a youthful, cheery decoration and seats outdoors.

If you haven't already guessed from its name, Mango Box has a huge selection of mango desserts. Its most popular is mango black glutinous rice (25 yuan), which is topped with mango ice cream.

If ice cream is not your thing, try the snow clams and mango pomelo dessert (30 yuan). It tastes like a mango smoothie and contains sago, small pieces of snow clams and real mango slices on top. Snow clams are a type of frog that grows in low-temperature forests. In China, it is believed to promote healthy skin; southerners are particularly fond of having it for dessert.

If you want to indulge in mango and more, try xiangguo pingpan (40 yuan), which comes with mango, kiwifruit, watermelon and ice cream.

If you come on a romantic date, one of the waitresses suggested ordering yuanyanglao, or "mandarin duck dessert" (40 yuan), which combines mango with coconut. In China, *yuanyang*, or mandarin ducks, symbolizes couplehood.

All the mango drinks are soothing and delicious. Mango Box seems to have a good source of mangoes, good quality ones of which are hard to come by in Beijing.

The place also has non-mango desserts, like its shaddock sago series that come in watermelon, coconut and cantaloupe flavors (18 to 20 yuan). You can also try fresh fruit juice such as mango, strawberry and papaya with sago (18 to 28 yuan).

Mango Box

Where: S05-15B, The Village, 39 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6415 4609



Mango pomelo dessert, 30 yuan

Photo by Wendy Zha



Authentic Sichuan chaoshou, 6 yuan

Photos by Lin Wei

Haven of Sichuan street food

The city is littered with Sichuan restaurants but few make authentic Sichuan street food like the family-run Lingdian Niurou Chaoshou (Beef Wonton) on East Gulou Avenue.

The place is small; it only contains six tables. Its menu is just as simple – customers' only options are Sichuan wontons, rice noodles, noodles made from agar-agar jelly and cold vegetable dishes – but the food is a real delight.

A big hit is its *chaoshou*, or Sichuan wontons, which come in *xiangla* (hot spicy) and *qingtang* (original) flavors. The dish looks and tastes like something off a Sichuan street vendor.

Its liangfen or agar-agar jelly noodle (5 yuan), in a rich and spicy dressing, makes a good appetizer.

The all-time favorite niuroumian (beef noodles) comes in two sizes – a small bowl at 6 to 7 yuan and a big bowl at 8 to 10 yuan.

Cold dishes cost 5 to 6 yuan, and the selection includes mu'er (edible fungus), Sichuan pickles, pai huanggua (smacked cucumber), kugua (bitter melon), juancai (bracken), doufusi (sliced bean curd) and jinzhengu (needle mushroom).

The secret of making delicious cold vegetable dishes is to use only the freshest ingredients. This is a philosophy that Niurou Chaoshou evidently follows.

Lingdian Niurou Chaoshou

Where: 14 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
Open: 10 am – midnight
Tel: 6417 5454

Cantonese and Macanese favorites

Changfen, or "steamed vermicelli roll," is a southern staple but is not as easy to find in town. That changes with the opening of Macao Taste, which offers fresh, healthy and fast Cantonese and Macanese food at affordable prices.

Its spareribs rice set (28 yuan) is served in a two-layer bamboo box. The first layer contains steamed black bean spareribs and rice steamed with lotus leaves, while the other layer holds a small portion of steamed vegetables. Black bean spareribs, prepared with black beans, garlic and peppers, is a traditional Guangzhou dish.

Typical Macanese food includes top beef cattle and intestines (28 yuan), Portuguese egg tarts (16 yuan), curry fish balls (20 yuan), Wynn rotten fish or fried smashed fish balls (28 yuan) and Portuguese curry wings (28 yuan).

The restaurant also offers rice rolls with three types of filling: leek shrimp (20 yuan), coriander beef (15 yuan) and vegetarian (15 yuan). The rice wrapper is not only thin but tender.

If you like noodles, try its Portuguese shrimp wonton noodle. For 25 yuan, you get a bowl of rice noodles with big, fat shrimp wontons.

Guangdong natives love roast duck and goose; Macao Taste's version is Portuguese roast (48 yuan), which has well-done yet juicy meat and crispy skin.

Diners who prepay 1,000 or 3,000 yuan get a membership card that entitles them to 15 percent off the regular menu price.

The restaurant is small and cozy but can get crowded during rush hour. The walls are adorned with scenic photos of Macao and at the door is a toy slot machine for children.

Macao Taste

Where: L-15a (west side of fountain on the first floor), The Village, 39 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm
Tel: 6415 1399



Spareribs rice set, 28 yuan

Photo by Wendy Zha

Chinese bands celebrate Motown's golden anniversary

By Wang Yu

The global music industry is gearing up for a very important day this year – the golden anniversary of Motown Records.

The story begins in 1959, in Detroit, the US's "Motor City," where Berry Gordy, a 30-year-old former professional boxer, soldier and car factory worker established the record label. Soon, the "Sound of Motown" spread all over the country.

Since then, Motown has entered the annals of African American pop music. Gordy produced 110 No. 1 hit songs in the US and became a legend in the American record industry. The label's artists represent some of the best of their generation: Michael Jackson, The Jackson 5, Lionel Richie, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder, 98 Degrees, Boyz II Men, Marvin Gaye, The Isley Brothers, The Supremes, The Temptations.

Recently, Universal Music released in China the double-CD album *Motown 50*, which contains 50 of the label's all-time greatest hits.

On October 30, Universal Music and Very Live will bring together five Chinese bands at MAO Livehouse to celebrate Motown's 50 years. The groups, drawn from different genres, will perform songs from *Motown 50*.

"We hope more Chinese music fans will get familiar with Motown's history and music through this show," Fan Yiqiang, head of Very Live, said.

One of the featured bands is Perdel, a MAO favorite pop band but whose talent some still doubt. There is G-Eleven, which defines its style as crossover rock; its music incorporates swing, indie rock, funk, bossa nova, R&B and Dance. The band's beautiful melodies and dexterous rhythms are the key words of their concerts.

Xiaolei&11, a name which has gone beyond Chinese shores, is also in the lineup. Influenced by British pop rock, expect this group to dazzle you with its beautiful tunes. Kamutang, formed in 2006, the "golden year of emo," does not fail to mesmerize audiences with its powerful music and pretty lead singer.

MIA&OMG, a pop duo, will hold their debut show at the Motown concert. It will be interesting to see what the group has in store.

"We dedicate this show to the greatest, the King of Pop, Michael Jackson. Although he's gone, his music will live forever," Fan of Very Live said.

October 30 birthday celebrants get a free ticket as a treat, so do not forget to bring your ID.

Motown 50 Special Showcase

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: October 30, 9 pm
Admission: 50 yuan for advance purchases; 60 yuan at the door

Tel: 13811799436 for English service



MOTOWN 50

YESTERDAY • TODAY • FOREVER

Upcoming

Nightlife

No Use for a Name

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: October 20, 8 pm
Admission: 180 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Stage in November

Concert

Ensemble Sagittarius Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 1, 7:30 pm
Admission: 60-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Maksim Piano Recital

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: November 10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Quatuor Diotima Beijing Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 21, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

David Braid Jazz Concert

Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 4 Zhonghua Lu, Dongcheng District
When: November 22, 7:30 pm
Admission: 30-380 yuan
Tel: 6559 8306

Dance

Tenderhook by the Scottish Dance Theatre

Where: Mei Lanfang Grand Theater, 32 Ping'anli Xi Dajie, Xicheng District
When: November 6-7, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-580 yuan
Tel: 5833 1288

ABT Contemporary Ballet Collection's Asia Premiere

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 12-13, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Carmen

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District
When: November 28-29, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,880 yuan
Tel: 6551 8058

Drama

Romeo and Juliet by the British TNT Theatre

Where: Drama Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 9-10, 7:30 pm
Admission: 80-480 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

Opera

The Magic Flute

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District
When: November 20-23, 7:30 pm
Admission: 180-1,080 yuan
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

Friday, October 16

Exhibition

Listen – Bard Breivik's Sculptures

Where: Imagine Gallery, 8 Yishu Gongzuoshi, Feijiacun, Laiguangying Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 8, daily except Monday, 10:30 am – 5:30 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6438 5747

Wang Yin Solo Exhibition

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, E06, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until November 22, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9530

Movie

Back to the Future

Where: Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm
Admission: Spend at least 20 yuan at the cafe/bar
Tel: 6400 7868

A State of Mind

Where: MoBox Books Life, 288 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 7 pm



Admission: 10 yuan
Tel: 8261 8538

Nightlife

Zoo Festival '09

Where: Beijing Haidian Exhibition Hall, 2 Xijian Gongmen Lu, Haidian District
When: 8 pm – midnight
Admission: 150 yuan
Tel: 400 610 3721

Saturday, October 17



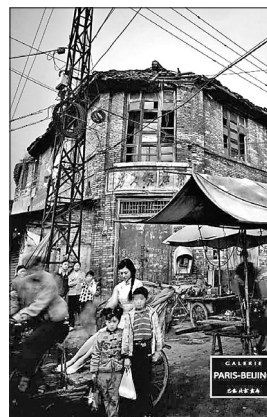
Exhibition

Annual Issue – Hua Yong's Economic Pop

Where: Thread Gallery, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 31, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9667



Chen Jiagang Photo Exhibition

Where: Galerie Paris-Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until December 8, daily, 10 am – 6 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5978 9262

Pause and Continuation

Where: Fu Cafe & Gallery, 71 Chaodou Hutong, Nanluoguxiang, Dongcheng District

When: Until October 18, daily, 10 am – midnight

Admission: Free
Tel: 6403 3595

Movie

Jade Warrior

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art (UCCA), 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 6:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 8459 9269

Nightlife

Bottle Rocket

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm
Admission: 60 yuan
Tel: 6402 5080

Journey to the East

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District
When: 9 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6404 2711

Sunday, October 18

Exhibition

Cotton Exhibition

Where: The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District
When: Until October 18, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free
Tel: 6417 6110

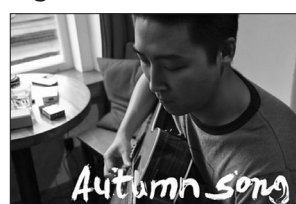
The Selected Collection

Exhibition One

Where: CAFA Art Museum, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 19, 9:30 am – 5:30 pm
Admission: 15 yuan
Tel: 6477 1699

Nightlife



Autumn Song by Kulu

Where: Weibozhiyan Club, Room 2308, 3/F North Building, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
When: 8 pm
Admission: 40 yuan; 30

yuan for students

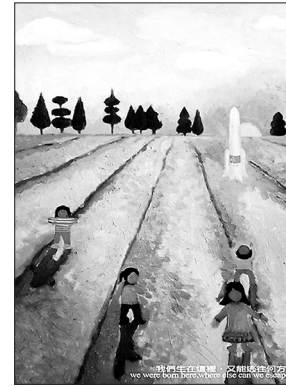
Tel: 5900 0969

Chaliangfen Band

Where: Jianghu Bar, 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9:30 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6401 4611

Movie



Falling from the Sky

Where: Caihuoche Salon, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District
When: 2 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 6406 0658

Turn down the volume, save your ears

By Venus Lee

No matter what you may think, loud noise will eventually cause hearing loss. However, proper nutrition and preventive measures can help you hang on to the sense you enjoy today.

Scientists say folates key

Higher folate intake can decrease the risk of hearing loss, according to new research presented at this year's American Academy of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery Foundation Annual Meeting, in San Diego, California.

In contrast to popular belief, the study, which identified 3,559 cases of men with hearing loss, found no benefit in taking antioxidant vitamins such as C, E and beta-carotene. However, the authors found that men age

60 or older who ate foods high in folates or supplements had a 20 percent decrease in risk of developing hearing loss.

High-folate foods include leafy greens like spinach, asparagus, turnip greens and lettuce, dried or fresh beans and peas, fortified cereal products and sunflower seeds. Other fruits and vegetables are also rich sources of folates, as are baker's yeast, liver and liver products.

The study also shows that men, especially those

who are white and married, are at significantly greater risk than women of noise-induced hearing loss, caused by exposure to intense sound over a long period of time.

The researchers analyzed the audiometric testing data from 5,290 people between the ages of 20 and 69 and found 13 percent of subjects had noise-induced loss. The strongest factor was gender, as men are 2.5 times more likely to develop this kind of hearing loss than women.

Sound nutrition

1. Magnesium: In a recently study, 300 participants drank a daily magnesium-rich supplement. After two months, their ears performed better than their counterparts', even though they all worked in a job that

involved loud noises. Foods rich in magnesium include peanut butter, almonds, brown rice, halibut, plantains and black beans.

2. Folic Acid: In another study, people who took 800 milligrams of folic

acid for three years stopped age-related hearing loss in its tracks. Foods rich in folic acid include enriched grains and cereals, dark green leafy vegetables, strawberries, oranges, black beans and avocados.

How hearing loss happens

"Hearing loss has many causes such as disease or infection, ototoxic drugs, tumors, trauma, exposure to noise and the aging process," said Peng Hong, associate chief physician of otorhinolaryngology at Beijing Shijitan Hospital. "This loss may or may not be accompanied by tinnitus, or ringing in the ears."

1. Noise. Being exposed to loud noise over and over is one of the most common causes of permanent hearing loss. "It usually develops slowly and without pain or other symptoms. Because the loss develops gradually and painlessly, it goes unnoticed until it has already become severe," he said.

Hearing loss can also occur as a result of an acoustic trauma, or a single exposure to extreme levels of sound.

2. Otosclerosis. Otosclerosis is a disease involving the middle ear capsule, specifically affecting the movement of the stapes, one of the three tiny bones in the middle ear.

3. Meniere's disease. The disease affects the membrane of the inner ear and is characterized by deafness, dizziness and ringing.

4. Medications. Drugs used to manage some diseases are damaging to the auditory

system and cause hearing loss. Some of the specific drugs known to be ototoxic are streptomycin, neomycin, kanamycin, aspirin, lasix and ethacrynic acid. Hearing loss has also been linked to Viagra and other PDE5 inhibitors according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

5. Acoustic neuroma. An acoustic neuroma is an example of a tumor that causes hearing loss. Acoustic neuromas arise in the eighth cranial nerve. The first symptom is reduction of hearing in one ear accompanied by a feeling of fullness.

6. Trauma. Trauma can also result in hearing loss. Examples include fractures of the temporal bone, puncture of the eardrum by a foreign object, and sudden changes in air pressure.

7. Aging. Loss of hearing as a result of aging is called presbycusis. The process involves degeneration of the inner ear and other parts of the auditory system. "The hearing loss is progressive in nature with the high frequencies affected first. While the process begins after age 20, it is typically at ages 55 to 65 that the high frequencies in the speech range begin to be affected," he said.

Keeping your hearing sharp

Minimize your risks:

1. Avoid harmful noise.

People can be exposed to harmful noise at work, at home and in other settings. "Harmful noise can come from commonly used tools such as lawnmowers and snowblowers, or from activities such as riding motorcycles and snowmobiles. Know what kinds of situations can generate harmful noise levels and avoid these when possible," Peng said.

2. Use protection. If you know you are going to be around harmful noise, wear earplugs or earmuffs. Cotton balls or tissues stuffed in the ears do not offer much protection.

3. Control the volume when you can. Do not buy noisy toys, appliances or tools when there are quieter alternatives. Reduce the noise in your life by turning down the volume on the stereo, television or car radio, and especially on personal listening devices with earphones.

"Do not wait until you notice a hearing loss to start protecting yourself from harmful noise. After noise-related damage to

the ear is done, it cannot be reversed. But if you already have some noise-related hearing loss, it is not too late to prevent further damage and preserve the hearing that you still have," the doctor said.

Identify common risks:

1. Never stick a cotton swab, hairpin or other object in your ear to remove earwax or to scratch your ear. Doctors say the best way to remove earwax is to let it shed naturally.

2. Ask your doctor whether the medicine you are taking may cause hearing loss. Tell your doctor if you develop a hearing problem while on medication.

3. Blow your nose gently and through both nostrils.

4. During air travel, swallow and yawn frequently when the plane is landing. "If you have a respiratory problem, such as a cold, the flu or a sinus infection, take a decongestant a few hours before landing or use a deconges-

tant spray just before," he says.

5. Practice proper underwater descent techniques if you are going to scuba dive.

6. Always wear your seat belt in the car, and wear a helmet when you bike, ski or skate. These habits can lower your risk of head and ear injury.

7. Stop smoking. Smokers are more likely to have hearing loss.



CFP Photo



Lifting the veil on deserts

Road trip to deserts in Hebei and Inner Mongolia

By Jin Zhu

The beginning of autumn is an ideal time to explore the deserts around Beijing. The sun's rays are gentler, there is a soft breeze and travelers may luck out on a blue-sky day.

During the National Day holiday, driving trips to the desert were popular among locals who were tired of city tours and instead wanted to experience rugged nature. *Beijing Today* talked to some of these people about their travel.



People traveling without a car can try horse-back riding.
CFP Photo



Sands dunes offer a wonderful view.

The nearest desert

Tianmo Desert, located in Longbao Mountain in southwestern Hebei Province, is the desert closest to Beijing. It is 90 kilometers from the city center.

The almost 900,000-square-meter barren land west of Beijing is where the Badaling Great Wall meets the Kangxi Grassland. Two huge sand dunes – one 300 meters wide and another a kilometer wide – cover an area of nearly 350,000 square meters.

Since there is no visible source of sand for several hundred kilometers around Tianmo, it is a mystery how the desert was formed. Was it created by the fierce northwestern winds or by the changing river courses? There is no definitive answer, and this is reflected in the desert's name, "desert from the sky."

The drive from Beijing to Tianmo follows a 100-kilometer long route. Since most of it takes place on paved roads, no exceptional driving skill is required, said Li Daxin, a Beijinger who visited Tianmo during the recent holiday.

Tianmo is a good destination for a family or friends' outing since the place offers leisure activities such as sand skiing, horse racing and camel rides. Visitors can also rent rough-terrain vehicles and go for a desert drive.

People who bring rough-terrain vehicles can enjoy another kind of fun: there are four steep tracks in the middle of the desert that drivers can use to test the performance of their vehicles.

"Going up the slope is really a lot of fun, but professional driving technique is needed," Li said. "But I was extremely nervous on the track and took half an hour to navigate it."



Going up the slopes by car is a fun, if scary, experience.

Tips:

Although Tianmo is near Beijing, it is wise for drivers to fill up their gas tanks before setting out. Yes, there are many gas stations along the way, but the quality of gas cannot be guaranteed.

Two kilometers west of Kangzhuang town is a checkpoint. Police officers inspect if passengers fasten their seat belts.

Getting there: Take Beijing-Zhangjiakou Expressway to the Donghuayuan or Jimingyi Exit, then turn west on Yekang Road all the way to Tianmo.

Entrance: 100 yuan per car

Continued on page 21...



People tired of city tours opted for desert adventures during the National Day holiday.

Photos by Hechuan Yijiu

... continued from page 20

Playground for explorers

Scenic spots in Inner Mongolia usually attract visitors from Beijing for their splendid views and accessibility from the capital.

As far as deserts go, Kubuqi is one of Inner Mongolia's most popular. The 400-kilometer wide desert, which lies south of the Yellow River, is shaped like a band, thus its name which means "bowstring" in the Inner Mongolian dialect.

Its sand dunes are generally 10 to 15 meters high. Nearly 80 percent of the desert's total area is made up of moving dunes, some of which move in rather high speeds.

"Driving in such a desert is not easy because of the potential dangers that exist," Wang Ruixi, who visited Kubuqi during the National Day holiday, said, adding that it is "a playground for hard-core explorers."

A 40-kilometer path from Resonant Sand Gorge to Qixing Lake is suitable for physically fit, experienced drivers.

Resonant Sand Gorge, situated on the desert's north edge, is 3 kilometers away from State Highway 210 and 44 kilometers away from Baotou, the largest industrial city in Inner Mongolia. Its name comes from the crescent-shaped, 110-meter-high steep dunes that produce an echo whenever people touch the sands.

The fierce winds that move the sand dunes also form large basins. "Drivers should pay careful attention to them and keep driving along the edge of the basins at an appropriate speed – neither too fast nor too slow," Wang said. Cars that stop halfway through basins can easily fall into them and have difficulty getting out, he said.

"The experience is interesting but with nerve-racking moments. Visitors who are not familiar with desert driving are advised to find a local guide or join an experienced driving team," Wang said.

"For the desert's special road conditions, it is better to lower the tires' air pressure to expand the surface they cover," he added.

Another suggested path is from Resonant Sand Gorge to Bodhi Temple, which has a distance of 38 kilometers. Since the path is along the edge of the desert, the road is flat.

"The tour takes around two to three days. Besides enjoying the drive, it is also nice to visit the home of herdsmen you encounter along the journey to sample their food and see their lifestyle," Wang said.

Getting there: Take Jingzang Expressway to Wulate Exit, then drive through the Desert of Hangjin County to Duguitala Town, on the edge of the Kubuqi

Tips for desert drivers:

1. Drive along a line and avoid making sharp turns. When turning a corner, turn the steering wheel slowly.
2. Shift into second gear to get going and use the third gear to climb a slope. Since sand resistance can be huge, drivers should step on the gas to avoid getting stuck. Shift into fourth gear when driving on gentle sand roads.
3. Keep to a low or medium speed and avoid changing gears often. When passing sand dunes interspersed at short distances, move at medium or full speed. An easy tip to remember: pass sand dunes quickly and pass water slowly.
4. When parking in the desert, choose a location with solid ground. The front of the vehicle should be higher to avoid packing sand into the tires.
5. Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel, making sure it does not slip through your fingers.
6. Bring sunglasses and hats. It is safer to bring a GPS device to make sure you are steering the vehicle in the right direction.



Kubuqi Desert is famous for its fast-traveling sand dunes.
Photos by Hechuan Yijiu

CHINA SHOW



Chinese tradition is back!

The biggest China Show where you can rediscover Old Beijing.

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Dining

Oktoberfest 2009

Paulaner Brauhaus brings this multinational festival to Beijing with traditional Bavarian food and special Oktoberfest beer. This time the Donautal Duo and Gaudimax, as well as the Munich girls dance group Das Kleeblatt, are coming to provide traditional and modern entertainment. Many traditional German favourites like grilled Pork Knuckles, Munich sausages and smoked meats will be prepared by an experienced German chef.

Where: Paulaner Brauhaus, Kempinski Hotel Beijing, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 9-25, 6-11 pm

Tel: 6465 3388 ext. 5732

New seasonal menu at Sureno

Award winning Mediterranean restaurant Sureno closed for a facelift over the golden week, but now it is back with a new autumn and winter a la carte menu. Highlights include pumpkin and king scallop soup, green gnocchi with Asiago fondue and saffron risotto topped with a passionately cooked ossobuco.

Where: The Opposite House, The Village, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 31

Tel: 6410 5240

Pumpkin delicacies

As pumpkin season nears, executive chef Sakal and his team will pamper patrons with delicious pumpkin delicacies every Sunday. Dishes include pumpkin soup, pumpkin juice and pumpkin cake.

Where: Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until October 31

Cost: 288 yuan (free fresh juice, wine, local beer and soft drinks); 378 yuan each (adds unlimited Perrier Jouet Champagne); 15 percent surcharge

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6521

Muslim cuisine

Immerse yourself in a selection of Muslim favorites. Middle Eastern, Southeast Asian and Chinese cuisines makes up the all-halal menu. The mezze platter features good hummus, its creamy smooth-

ness offset by crunchy whole chickpeas. Lebanese chicken shish comes with a fluffy pita and zingy lemon pickle. Of the Chinese offerings, the braised oxtail in ginger soy sauce is the most delicious: its dark meat falls away in tender shreds.

Where: Kunlun Hotel, 2 Xinyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2 pm - 1 am next day

Tel: 6590 3388

Thai Thai

Well prepared, subtly flavored food forms the backbone of a pleasant Thai dining experience. Take in the warm decor and comfortable couch seating while the staff speedily serves your Tom Yum Goong and Pad Thai. If there's still room for dessert, be sure to order the fried banana.

Where: 1 Fangyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11:30 am - 11 pm

Tel: 6437 3480

Haiku by Hatsune

This restaurant's critically acclaimed menu offers what food lovers call Japanese fusion at its best: culinary perfection and award-winning service. Inspired by travel, experimentation and tradition, the menu offers timeless favorites as well as new creations, including innovative rolls and an extensive yakitori menu. Be sure to order a mini miso hot pot and tender Kobe beef.

Where: 8 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Tel: 6508 8585

Lan Club

Putting a modern twist to traditional Chinese cuisine, this quintessentially hip restaurant is known for its bar of fresh, succulent oysters. The revised menu is affordable and has house specialties like beggar's chicken. Its opulent decor is perfect for impressing business associates and visiting friends.

Where: 4/F Twin Tower, Jianguomen Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: 11 am - 11 pm

Tel: 5109 6012



Open bar brunch

Celebrate Sunday with a sumptuous brunch in the bustling surrounds of Elements. Feast on a huge range of roasted options and Pan-Asian delicacies at its live cooking stations. Entertainment includes smooth, live music, a magician and games at the Kids Club.

Where: Elements, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Changyang District

When: daily, noon - 3 pm

Cost: 348 yuan each (with open bar of cocktails, spirits, beer, Munn Champagne and soft drinks); 288 yuan each (free soft drinks and local beer); 15 percent surcharge

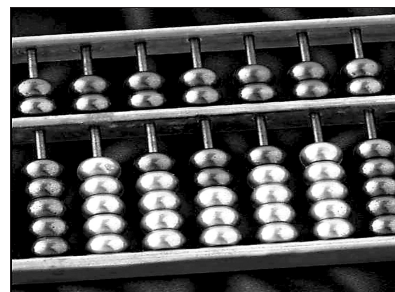
Tel: 5865 5020

Charity

HelpAlliance celebrates 10th anniversary

The HelpAlliance aid organization, founded by Lufthansa staff, is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Since 1999, Lufthansa employees have nurtured aid projects around the world as part of HelpAlliance. Around €4 million (40.7 million yuan) in donations have been invested in diverse aid projects. Much of its funding comes from passengers who donate leftover foreign currency from their wallets after a stay abroad - what HelpAlliance calls "Small change, big help." It also receives regular contributions from 1,200 supporting members.

Hotel



Abacus Campaign

Millennium & Cophthorne's new Abacus campaign, which replaces last year's Fortune Cookie campaign, gives participants an unprecedented 10 percent plus 3 percent in commissions. Earn an additional 3 percent on select meeting packages at any of its hotels in China. Millennium's state-of-the-art facilities, flexible banquet halls, expert chefs and experience in hosting will make your next event a resounding success.



Bloody mary turns 75

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the creation of the bloody mary, The St. Regis Beijing is continuing its Bloody Mary World Tour where cocktail lovers can try a trio of signature bloody marys from St. Regis branches in North America, Asia and Europe, along with appetizers.

Where: Press Club Bar, The St. Regis, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights

Cost: 108 yuan net per set (three half-sized drinks, each with an appetizer)

Shangri-La Hotels named best hotel brand 9th time

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts again took home the coveted title of Best Business Hotel Brand in Asia-Pacific, together with seven other titles at the 2009 Business Traveller Asia-Pacific's 18th Travel Awards. Regarded as one of the travel industry's most anticipated events, Business Traveller Asia-Pacific's Readers' Poll is held annually, surveying frequent business readers and leisure travellers.

Aviation



Singapore Airlines goes daily to Melbourne

The first Singapore Airlines A380 bound for Melbourne, capital of Victoria, Australia, landed at Melbourne Airport at the end of last month. Melbourne is the second Australian city and sixth in the world to receive the carrier's new A380. Singapore Airlines operates 21 weekly flights between Singapore and Melbourne, including its new daily A380 service.

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Eat noodle, use noodle for math

By Zhang Dongya

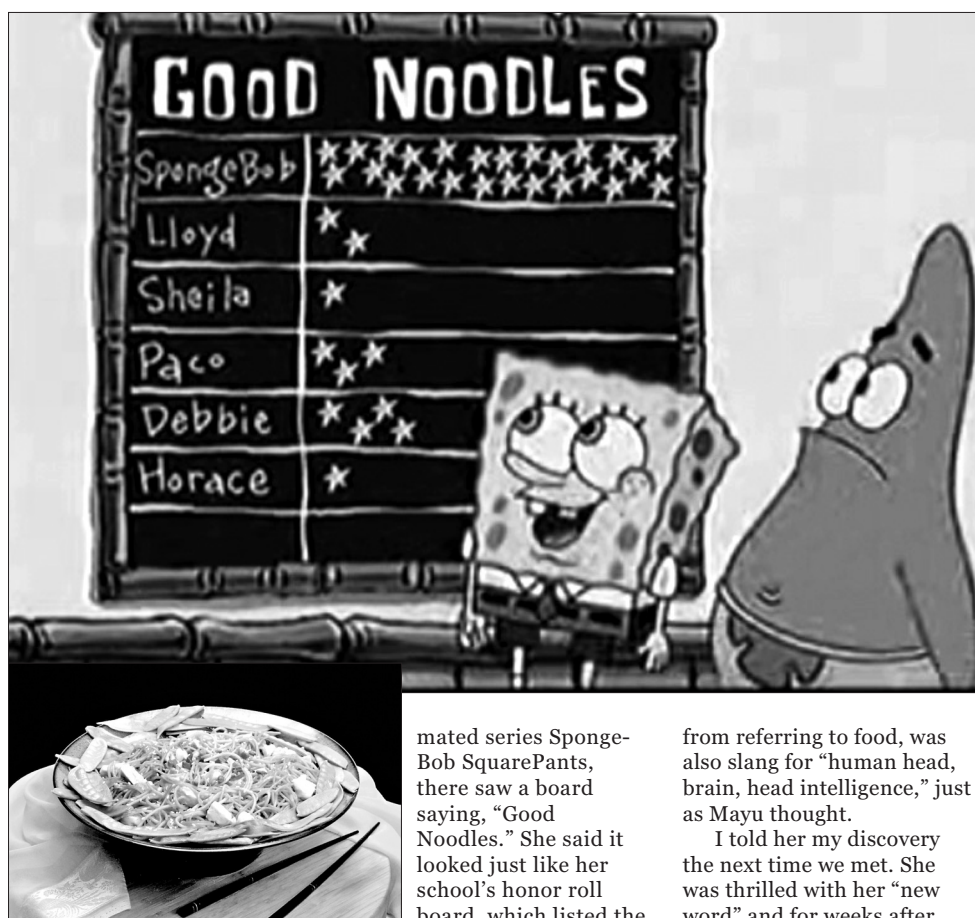
I used to tutor a little girl in English when I was in college. The eight-year-old girl called Mayu has a Chinese mom and a Japanese dad, so she speaks both Chinese and Japanese fluently. She moved to Beijing from Tokyo with her parents and studied in an international school here, so she had to learn English as well.

Sometimes, I felt sorry for the little girl; she was forced to speak Japanese with her dad, Chinese with her mom and English with me. Of course, her language skills will be a great advantage to her when she grows up and looks for a job. I just wished the three languages would smoothly go into their respective channels inside her brain – as if learning a language ever works that way.

Despite endless pressure from her parents to study hard, Mayu genuinely loved to learn because of her curious nature.

But if there was one subject Mayu hated, it was math. She didn't participate in class discussions and didn't prepare for exams. After one particularly bad exam result, the teacher lost her temper with the girl. "Can you please use your noodle, Mayu!?" the teacher yelled in class.

I found out about this episode from the parent of one of Mayu's classmates. But when I saw Mayu that weekend, she only asked me what the word



"noodle" meant. I replied: "It's a type of food – a narrow strip of dried dough usually made of flour, eggs and water."

A week later, she asked me the same thing again. She said that in one episode of the ani-

mated series SpongeBob SquarePants, there saw a board saying, "Good Noodles." She said it looked just like her school's honor roll board, which listed the names of the best students.

When I got home, I immediately went online and did a search for "SpongeBob SquarePants" together with "noodle." I was surprised to find out that "noodle," aside

from referring to food, was also slang for "human head, brain, head intelligence," just as Mayu thought.

I told her my discovery the next time we met. She was thrilled with her "new word" and for weeks after, kept asking people, "Do you know what 'noodle' means?" Sometimes I heard her muttering to herself, "Why is the brain called a noodle?"

Actually, I wondered the same thing. But I was too embarrassed to admit it to Mayu.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. In a Beijing suburban Professor Zhu Shida

(ZS): "Suburb" is a noun that denotes a town, a village, or other community near a city. We usually say "suburbs." For example, The US with its growing suburbs can well afford to buy more new cars than it ever had before. "Suburban" is an adjective, it cannot replace "suburb." We say: suburban life, a suburban school, a suburban shopping center. When suburban is used as a noun, it can only mean "suburnite," a person who lives in a suburb.

Native speaker Steven

Sandor (SS): Nouns and adjectives are entirely different. The use of suburban as a noun is so phenomenally strange that the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* does not even bother to explain it. If you use suburban as a noun in conversation, people will assume you are talking about a Suburban: a Chevrolet truck. As far as I know, the Suburban is not being manufactured in Beijing.

2. It was financial problems need to be tackled.

ZS: Here involves the sentence pattern of "It is ... that." So, the sentence should be: It was financial problems that need to be tackled. "That" here is a linking word that introduces an attributive clause. It is absolutely necessary to have it in the sentence. You cannot omit it. Just as it is a form to stress what the writer wishes to say, it is necessary to use the definite article before "financial problems." So, the perfect sentence should be: It was the financial problems that need to be tackled.

SS: Where to begin on this one ... The first verb, was, anchors the sentence firmly in the past. But "was" does not match "problems" in number. Most likely the writer forgot the definite article "the" to isolate which financial problems required tackling. And need to be tackled? Suddenly we have shifted back into the present. "Need" should be conjugated to the past tense plural "needed." There is a general editing rule that when a sentence can be read and understood without a "that," then you should cut it. This sentence absolutely cannot survive such a cut for reasons the professor already explained: It was the financial problems that needed to be tackled.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com with your name and address.

Anti moth toothpaste

By Tiffany Tan

I initially thought the toothpaste packaging meant to say, "anti mouth toothpaste." But a year of deciphering Chinglish signs has developed my sixth sense about these things.

"It's saying more than that," I thought, a finger tapping my chin, like a detective trying to solve a mystery.

Lo and behold, the moment I see the Chinglish page editor, the first thing he tells me is that "zhuya is a kind of insect that destroys the teeth." Nice to see you too after the long National Day holiday, man.

My colleague provided a clue, but I first had to decode it to decipher the toothpaste label. On the lower middle portion of the toothpaste tube, partially cut from the photo, is the phrase "fang zhuya," which means "prevents tooth decay." The word "zhuya" means tooth decay, but the character "zhu" alone means "termite" or "moth."

Whoever wrote the label only translated "fang zhu" that is why we ended up with "anti moth toothpaste." How scary to think some people might actually be keeping moths inside their mouth.





Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

(2009)

Movie of the week

The young wizard is back, and together with his best friends begins a new adventure.

As a movie, this is the best crafted of the series. But fans of the book have been quick to score it down as a weak adaptation of the popular novel.

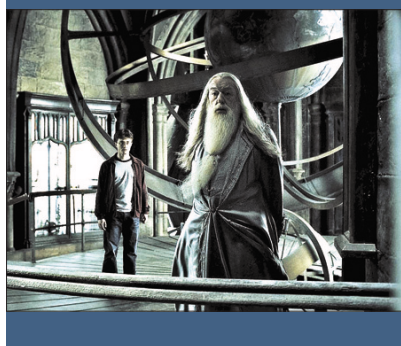
The original novel is long and complicated, and a challenge for any screenwriter to tackle. Each movie installment has improved on the last in cinematography, special effects, score and acting. But the key element which made Harry Potter a worldwide hit – the story – is notably absent from this sixth episode.

Still, the stars do their job well enough to make this worth watching: especially the charming and brilliant Alan Rickman who plays Professor Snape, the dark wizard with a gentle heart.

Synopsis

Having returned to power, Death Eaters attack both the Muggle and Wizarding worlds. Lord Voldemort has given Draco Malfoy an assignment to assassinate Albus Dumbledore, and Bellatrix Lestrange goads Severus Snape into making an Unbreakable Vow with Draco's mother, Narcissa, to protect Draco and carry out the assignment if he fails.

Scarred by his experience at the Ministry of Magic with Voldemort, Harry is reluctant to return to school. Dumbledore uses Harry to entice former Potions Professor Horace Slughorn to return to Hogwarts. His memories reveal that Voldemort splintered his soul into six fragments attached to objects called Horcruxes, while leaving a seventh piece in his body, in order to achieve immortality. But Dumbledore's search for the Horcruxes may spell his doom.



Scene 1

(Harry reads the Daily Prophet while waiting for Dumbledore at a train station cafe.)

Waitress: "Harry Potter." Who's Harry Potter?

Harry Potter (H): Oh, no one. *Bit of a tosser (1)*, really.

Waitress: Funny, that paper of yours. Couple nights ago, I could've sworn I saw a picture move.

H: Really?

Waitress: Thought I was going around the *twist (2)*.

H: Hey, I was wondering ...

Waitress: Eleven. That's when I get off. You can tell me all about that tosser Harry Potter.

Scene 2

(Dumbledore shows up.)

Dumbledore (D): You've been *reckless (3)* this summer, Harry.

H: I like riding around on trains. Takes my mind off things.

D: Rather unpleasant to behold, isn't it? The tale is thrilling, if I say so myself. But now is not the time to tell it. Take my arm. Do as I say.

(Dumbledore teleports Harry away.)

H: I just Apparated, didn't I?

D: Indeed. Quite successfully too, I might add. Most people vomit the first time.

H: I can't imagine why.

D: Welcome to the charming village of Budleigh Babberton. Harry, I assume, right about now, you're wondering why I brought you here. Am I right?

H: Actually, sir, after all these years, I just sort of *go with it (4)*.

D: Wands out, Harry.

(They enter Horace's house.)

Horace Slughorn (S): Merlin's beard! No need to disfigure me, Albus.

D: Well, I must say you make a very

convincing armchair, Horace.

S: It's all in the upholstery. I come by the stuffing naturally. What *gave me away (5)*?

D: Dragon's blood. Oh, yes, introductions. Harry, I'd like you to meet an old friend and colleague of mine ... Horace Slughorn. Horace ... well, you know who this is.

S: Harry Potter ...

Scene 3

(Dumbledore gives a short speech after the welcome dinner to the students who have just returned to Hogwarts.)

D: Very best of evenings to you all. First off, let me introduce the newest member of our staff ... Horace Slughorn. Professor Slughorn, I'm happy to say, has agreed to resume his old post as Potions Master. Meanwhile, the post of Defense Against the Dark Arts will be taken by Professor Snape.

Now, as you know ... each and every one of you was searched upon your arrival here tonight. And you have the right to know why. Once there was a young man, who, like you ... sat in this very hall ... walked this castle's corridors, slept under its roof. He seemed to all the world a student like any other. His name? Tom Riddle.

Today, of course ... he's known all over the world by another name. Which is why, as I stand *looking out upon (6)* you all tonight ... I'm reminded of a sobering fact. Every day, every hour this very minute, perhaps dark forces attempt to penetrate this castle's walls.

But in the end, the greatest weapon is you.

Scene 4

(Harry and Slughorn go to Hagrid's house. The professor is drunk and tells something about the past.)

S: I once had a fish. Francis. He was very dear to me. One afternoon I came downstairs, and he'd vanished.

Hagrid: That's very odd, isn't it?

S: It is, isn't it? But that's life, I suppose. You go along and then suddenly, poof! ... It was a student who gave me Francis. One spring afternoon I discovered a bowl on my desk with just a few inches of clear water in it. And floating on the surface was a flower petal.

As I watched, it sank. Just before it reached the bottom it transformed into a wee fish. It was beautiful magic. Wondrous to behold. The flower petal had come from a lily. Your mother.

The day I came downstairs, the day the bowl was empty was the day your mother ... I know why you're here. But I can't help you. It would ruin me.

H: Do you know why I survived, professor? Because of her. Because she sacrificed herself. Because she refused to *step aside (7)*. Because her love was more powerful than Voldemort.

I need to know what Tom Riddle asked you years ago in your office and I need to know what you told him. Be brave, professor. Be brave like my mother. Otherwise, you disgrace her. Otherwise, she died for nothing. Otherwise, the bowl will remain empty forever.

Vocabulary

1. tosser: British slang for a stupid or despicable person

2. go around the twist: unable to behave in a reasonable way

3. reckless: having or showing no regard for danger or consequences

4. go with it: here it means to get used to it

5. give someone away: to betray

6. look out upon: take care of

7. step aside: to run away

(By Wang Yu)